

Hafa Adai!

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SAIPAN SUNSET

Two men enjoy the view from Mount Tapochau as the sun sets over the Philippine Sea. At 1,555 feet, Mount Tapochau is the highest point on the island of Saipan.

MARK FARMER

House majority accusing Torres of deceptive tactics

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives majority members accused Friday Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of employing deceptive tactics and misinforming the public by not telling the whole story about the House's version of the budget for the government's operations for Fiscal Year 2023, as they insisted that the Legislature has the authority to appropriate American Rescue Plan Act funds.

» **Insisting authority to appropriate ARPA money**
» **Torres dares House majority to go ahead, appropriate and spend ARPA money**

At a press conference held in the House chamber, House Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) said they set the press conference to go over actions taken by the committee and to clear up some of the misinformation that is being spread around by the Torres administration.

"We would like to put up the facts and let the people decide who's telling the truth,"

See **HOUSE** on **Page 4**

Flash flood warning through Tuesday

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The National Weather Service based off of Tiyan, Guam reports that flash flooding due to excessive rainfall is expected through

Tuesday morning due to a tropical disturbance expected to develop to the east of the Marianas.

According to a flash flood warning issued by the NWS yesterday afternoon, from

See **FLASH** on **Page 4**

Another \$11.3M for pandemic relief

» **To date CNMI has received \$69.3M in FEMA grants related to COVID-19 relief**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) disclosed Saturday that the CNMI is receiving another \$11.3 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for COVID-19 pandemic relief.



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Visitor arrivals up 1,669% last August

Tourist arrivals to the CNMI grew 1,669% to 9,746 visitors in August 2022, compared to 551 visitors received in August 2021, according to the Marianas

Visitors Authority.

So far this fiscal year, 61,278 visitors have come to the Commonwealth compared to 4,258 visitors over the same period last

fiscal year.

August's figure is about one-third the number of average monthly arrivals prior to the pandemic, but it marks a

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Following heavy rain showers and isolated flash flooding, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero visited affected southern families last Thursday.

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WORLD

Pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin mounted on the battlefield and in the halls of global power.

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LIFE & STYLE

All eight of Queen Elizabeth II's grandchildren stood in silent vigil beside her coffin Saturday.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Torres remains committed to safeguarding retirees' pensions

At Thursday's Settlement Fund Trustee Report Review Hearing, NMI Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C.H. Tang and Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood praised Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration for diligently making payments to the Settlement Fund and prioritizing the retirees despite the hardships caused by Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her Report of the Trustee, Tang stated that, "in a year of exceptional challenges and disruption, the CNMI continues to recover, and the government continues to timely pay its bi-weekly Settlement Fund payments."

At Thursday's presentation to the NMI Federal District Court, Tang noted the fact that making the promised bi-weekly payments was key in allowing the fund to grow its

investment portfolio and extending the Fund's investment horizon. Tang thanked Torres and his administration, as well as the CNMI Legislature, for their commitment to the retirees and funding the Settlement Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood was similarly complimentary to Torres and the government of the CNMI in prioritizing the Settlement Fund and the retirees. Judge Tydingco-Gatewood commended the commitment and work of Torres, the government of the CNMI, the Trustee and her staff, class counsel, and others in successfully funding and maintaining the Settlement Fund, especially in the last few years given the typhoons that have struck the CNMI and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Appearing at the review hearing, Torres assured Tydingco-Gatewood and the

Trustee that he and his administration have and will continue to prioritize the retirees. As part of this promise, the governor assured the court and Trustee that he and his administration would work with the Legislature to make sure that the retirees are properly provided for in the upcoming FY 2023 Budget Bill.

Also appearing at the review hearing, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig echoed Torres' commitment to the retirees, assuring the Court and Trustee that the CNMI government would continue to make its payments to ensure the retirees are paid in full.

"The retirees have been priority number one since the beginning of my administration. My administration has never wavered from this commitment, even through the dark

days of Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this commitment, my Administration has fulfilled its obligations to the Settlement Fund, ensured that every retiree is paid 100% of its pension, and even has made sure that retirees have been paid bonuses," Torres said.

"I am grateful and honored that the court and Trustee have recognized my administration's commitment to our retirees. As I have said before, the retirees committed themselves to work for the CNMI. We have a duty to honor their commitment by paying all of the pension benefits due them, especially as so many of the retirees depend on these pension benefits for their basic needs. My administration will continue to honor and protect our retirees," Torres said. (PR)

First tsunami drill of 2022 was successful

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The first Tsunami drill of 2022 arranged by the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Public School System, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Department of Public Safety yielded mixed results despite the advanced notice sent out to schools in preparation of such an important training.

According to HSEM spokesperson Claude Celis, overall the tsunami preparedness exercise drill conducted last Tuesday with eight different schools in the CNMI was a success, however, there is still room for improvements.

Celis explained that the drill started at 9am but a briefing by HSEM was done 30 minutes prior to the actual drill.

The ultimate goal was to get students and staff to evacuate school grounds and get to the safe zones within 15 minutes and account for each student at the safe zones.

"What we were trying to do is to have the students and all the staff and all the and all the school staff evacuate from the area within 15 minutes. Overall it was pretty successful," he said.

Celis noted that it is extremely important, in a real-life situation, that students and staff evacuate the premises, and get students as far away from the shoreline as possible within 15 minutes.

"The reason why this training is important is because we want to be able to react accordingly. In a real life situation, we do not want students

and staff within our schools to panic. We want everything to run as smoothly as possible in the event a tsunami does occur. Tsunamis are out of our control but if we can better prepare for it in the event one does happen, that would be best," he said.

However, after the first drill, Celis said there are still a lot of things some schools need to work on to be truly prepared in the event a tsunami does occur in the CNMI.

"We made an announcement of this drill a week in advance and still, one of the schools took an hour to get to the safe zone and that's not okay. And see this was an announcement. In a real life situation, that's something we wouldn't want to happen. In a real situation, we would want to have an evacuation run as safely and as quickly as possible. We want to get the kids at the very least 2 miles away from the shoreline in 15 minutes. One hour is just not acceptable," he said.

When asked what improvements could be made, Celis said time, safety, and accountability.

The eight schools involved in this drill were Mount Carmel School, Oleai Elementary School, Oleai Head Start, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School, Marianas High School, Susupe Early Head Start, Chalan Kanoa Head Start/Early Head Start, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Saipan Community School, Garapan Elementary School, Tanapag Middle School, and Tanapag Head Start/Early Head Start.



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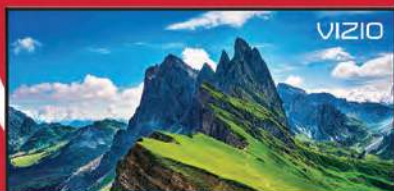
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Torres renews two executive orders

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has renewed for 30 days his two executive orders that he first

issued in 2020 due to the imminent threat posed by COVID-19.

Torres renewed last week Executive Order 2020-04 declaring a State of Public Health

» **EOs were 1st issued in 2020 due to COVID-19 threat**

Emergency and State of Significant Emergency to establish response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning COVID-19.

He also renewed Executive Order 2020-07, which ordered the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office, through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partner-

ship with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of emergency directives to protect the health and safety of the public.

Torres stated that COVID-19, through its variants, continues to pose a significant and imminent threat of harm to the community, environment, and people of the CNMI.

The governor cited that as recently as June-July of this year, a wave of COVID-19 infections spread throughout

the community.

He said an emergency declaration is still needed to ensure the containment of COVID-19 in the CNMI.

Torres said as the CNMI continues to open up its economy to tourism from Asia markets, the chance of COVID-19 once again spreading in the community is heightened.

The governor noted that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services renewed its public health emergency last July 15 for a 90-day period indicating that federal public health officials still see COVID-19 as a threat to public health.

Torres has consulted with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office and the COVID-19 Task Force, and believes renewals of the two executive orders are warranted.

Some Democrat lawmakers have been questioning the governor's continued renewals of the executive orders.

Diabetes prevention at Marianas Health Services

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The H.A.F.A Initiative at Marianas Health Services in San Jose is a diabetes prevention program that runs from Monday to Friday, 5:30pm-6:30pm, and Saturdays, 4:30-5:30pm over the course of nine months.

The classes provide guidance to people with pre-diabetes or high-risk of Type 2 Diabetes through health education, awareness, and fitness activities and with the objective of helping people develop lifestyle changes that will help lower their risk for diabetes.

Currently, there are six classes with a total of 48 participants so far.

"We encourage those who simply want to lower their risk of diabetes to join as well. The H.A.F.A Initiative is free and available for men and women 18 and older," said Marianas Health Service via email.

Marianas Health Services offers the only certified CDC evidence-based diabetes prevention lifestyle change program for the CNMI.

The program is in collaboration with AAPCHO's (Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations) Pacific Islander Diabetes Prevention Program (PI-

DPP). Marianas Health was selected by AAPCHO and became certified for the diabetes prevention program back in November 2019. The program was launched in March 2020 consisting of six classes totaling 119 participants.

"All of our H.A.F.A. lifestyle coaches have been certified through online courses to provide quality education. Class sessions are for one hour within the first three months weekly, followed by every other week and once a month for the last three months. The sessions are tapered as participants build long-term habits that lead to a better lifestyle. Currently, online class sessions via zoom and face to face are being offered by our H.A.F.A lifestyle coaches" said Marianas Health Service.

Since February 2000, Marianas Health LLC, formerly known as Marianas Health Services Inc., has been the CNMI healthcare system's partner in providing quality healthcare services at home as well as quality and professional healthcare support in the community.

If you have any questions or inquiries, feel free to contact Marianas Health Service at 233-4646 or email info@marianashealth.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) relocated to the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility located in Lowerbase, Saipan across the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Office. In addition, COTA's One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Center's contact number has changed to (670) 236-2682 effective August 25, 2022.

For additional information please contact COTA's Administrative Office at (670) 664-2682. Thank you.

Sincerely,
/s/ **Amalia M. Magofna**
Acting Special Assistant
for Public Transportation



2nd Floor Rm. 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
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Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties conducting the auction sale:

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- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the chattel mortgage (vehicle) is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever there; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. **Minimum Bid.** The minimum bid for the sale of the abovementioned vehicle is **\$8,000.00**. No advanced bids will be accepted. The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties. **Bidders must be present in person at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, at 11:00 a.m. to bid.** All bids less than \$8,000.00 are rejected. Any person who registers his/her bid shall provide a copy of his/her valid Identification Card (valid CNMI Driver's License or Passport). The winning bidder shall be the person whom the vehicle is confirmed to, if the bid is accepted.

3. **Payment.** The entire purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. **Personal checks /company checks are not accepted.** All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check only. The Bank of Guam shall release the chattel mortgage to the winning bidder. Failure to make payment will result in the winning bidder forfeiting his/her winning bid. The next highest bidder (minimum \$8,000.00) may be awarded.

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FINANCE FINDS:

CHCC appropriated only \$36.4M, not \$55.8M as initially claimed

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. indicated that it had budgeted appropriations amounting in excess of \$55.8 million, but the Department of Finance was able to determine that actual appropriations based on Public Laws show CHCC was appropriated only \$36.4 million.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, in a letter to CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña dated Sept. 7, 2022, disclosed that to date, Finance has transferred \$26.6 million

» Finance chief says administration's additional support to CHCC exceeds \$23.3M

» Finance says it owes only \$9.8M to CHCC, not \$34.2M as claimed

to CHCC, leaving a balance of approximately \$9.8 million.

Atalig said the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Finance have shown CHCC unequivocal support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Atalig's letter was among the many documents that he submitted last Monday, Sept. 12, to the House

of Representatives Ways and Means chairman Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Manglona issued a subpoena to compel Finance to provide numerous reports or documents that the committee members have sought.

Last Aug. 2, CHCC CEO Muña wrote to Atalig, claiming that CHCC is owed \$34.2 million to date, and

that Finance has yet to transfer to the corporation several local appropriations, as well as allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Muña said she wrote the letter to Atalig after some lawmakers emphasized with her that CHCC needs to make a written request to Atalig's office requesting for and following up on funding appropriated to CHCC by CNMI public laws.

Muña indicated that several public and Saipan local laws, including those from 2018, appropriated a total of \$55.8 million to CHCC.

She said Finance transferred so far \$20,981,433 and an adjustment

in the amount of \$646,163, leaving \$34,208,092 in total balance owed to CHCC.

But Atalig in the Sept. 7 letter to Muña, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend, noted that Muña stated in her memorandum (letter) that under Public Law 20-11 Fiscal Year 2018 Appropriations Act, the appropriation for CHCC was budgeted for \$2,254,926.

Atalig said after their review, they found out that the budget law appropriated CHCC with only \$708,311.

A longer version of this story is available at
www.saipantribune.com

HOUSE

From Page 1

said Manglona, who is the author of the House budget bill.

Torres said Saturday that if the House majority members insist they have the authority to appropriate American Rescue Plan money, then why it's already a year now that they have not appropriated and spent ARPA money.

Standing by his and his legal counsel's statement that appropriating ARPA money is unconstitutional and illegal, Torres dared the majority to go ahead and appropriate and spend ARPA money.

Manglona said some majority members would give a breakdown of the deceptive tactics the administration took to try and divide the House.

In discussing how the committee approached the budget, Manglona said they started off by looking at all unfilled vacancies throughout the Commonwealth.

He said they noticed a significant amount of these vacancies in the governor's April 1, 2022 budget submission and allowed the administration to revise the budget to include any vacancies that will be filled.

The chairman said on July 1, 2022, or three months later, they still saw the same figures in the governor's revised budget submission.

He said they decided to remove these vacancies, these positions mainly because they were unfunded but also they felt that there may have not been a need for these positions. Secondly, Manglona said, they wanted to ensure a clearly identified source of funding that was allocated to cover the government retirees' 25% pension and the Medicaid matching, which was done through the general fund because these can-

not be covered by ARPA funds.

"After these two issues were addressed, we simply took what was left and allocated it to all remaining personnel and divided up these funds going through each department and agency that the committee felt needed operational funds in order to provide services," he said.

Manglona said during their budget hearing with Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, the committee was assured that when they got the revised budget submission, the operations budget for the departments and agencies would be addressed. However, he said, they found that the operational budget was still zeroed out.

"I could not in good conscience pass a budget that provided nothing at all for operations," he said.

The chairman said the committee was then challenged to identify funding and provide funds to each agency so that they have something to work with.

He said prior to the ARPA funds coming into the CNMI, he introduced legislation that would require appropriation to be done through the Legislature as this is what many states throughout the U.S. have done.

"We continue to maintain that the Legislature has authority to appropriate these funds especially if it has been identified in the budget submission," Manglona said.

He said Volume 4 of ARPA funds will be used for the upcoming fiscal year so the committee basically uses those funds and reallocates them to come up with a whole budget.

The chairman said the reason they did not pass the budget earlier on is because the committee took due diligence to ensure that the information that they received is accurate.

He cited that it was the Legislature that alerted the administration of the overpayment that was set aside to

the Settlement Fund, which in turn freed up \$3 million that were able to be allocated toward the agencies that needed it the most.

In addition, Manglona said, it has always been a practice of the Legislature to identify the areas in which Compact Impact funds are to be allocated, but it was not mentioned anywhere in the budget submission where to allocate these funds.

He said the committee once again took the reasonable approach and allocated these funds to the agencies.

Manglona said the administration accuses the House majority of taking several actions that are unconstitutional.

However, he said, this is just the Torres administration's attempt to discredit the work that was done and the research that they took to ensure that their actions were within authority.

Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) said with Torres' recent statements that the House majority's actions were unconstitutional, inappropriate, and illegal, she was tempted to call him out on his behavior, which she described as "childish."

However, Magofna said, she quickly realized, re-focused, and reminded herself that she is a congresswoman.

"Gov. Torres, our people deserve the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Therefore, I humbly ask that you please stop the lies and stop misinforming them about the budget because they deserve better," she said.

Magofna said the governor's accusation about the House passing an illegal budget bill is simply unfounded, baseless, and has no merit.

A longer version of this story is available at
www.saipantribune.com

care Corp. \$5.29 million; the Office of the Governor \$1.92 million; and the funeral assistance applicants \$87,531.

The delegate said this brings to a total of \$69.26 million that the Commonwealth received from FEMA as of Sept. 13, 2022.

He said FEMA announced last Monday that the CNMI is receiving another \$9,606,182 to cover costs of responding to the pandemic.

He said the funds require no local match and are intended to pay for

labor, rented equipment, materials, and contract services performed between April 2020 through September 2021 to set up alternative care sites.

Sablan said on Tuesday, FEMA announced a second grant of \$1,678,097 for the CNMI to purchase personal protective equipment and ensure the safe opening and operation of the local healthcare system during the pandemic.

"These funds, too, require no local match to date," he said.

FLASH

From Page 1

today through Tuesday morning, excessive runoff due to heavy rainfall may result in flooding of rivers, creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations in Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

Flooding may also occur in poor drainage and urban areas as well as low-water crossings may be flooded as a result of the excessive runoff.

The NWS noted that the heavy showers and thunderstorms expected through the next few hours is associated with a tropical disturbance expected to develop within the eastern sector of the monsoon trough near the far Northern Marianas.

NWS sees a continuous upward trend in rainfall, with amounts between 2 and 4 inches with locally heavier amounts in excess of 4 to 6 inches possible through Tuesday.

Due to this, NWS encourages everyone to monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings. Be prepared to take action, especially for those living in areas prone to flooding, should flooding develop.

Lastly, if living near streams and rivers, prepare to move items away from stream and river banks. Make sure storm drains nearby are not clogged, especially in low-lying areas, the NWS stated.

Meanwhile, according to Monday's forecast, showers are likely and individuals in the Marianas could

possibly experience a thunderstorm. South southeast winds are expected to be at 8 to 11 mph becoming west in the afternoon.

On Tuesday, weather forecasts show scattered showers and thunderstorms. The day is expected to be mostly cloudy, with south southwest winds at 6 to 11 mph increasing to 12 mph to 17 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 22 mph.

As of 7am yesterday, a large trough which extends from about 3N136E to about 18N161E, with a weak circulation, was seen near 11N155E. The convergence ahead of the trough is producing scattered to numerous convection that extends northeast from east of the Republic of Palau and Yap State to east of the Mariana Islands.

NWS stated that A surface ridge extends southwestward from near Saipan across Yap and Palau, separating the southwest monsoon flow to the northwest and the large tradewind trough to the east. The ridge is helping to increase convergence within the monsoon flow, and ahead of the large trade-wind trough.

The ridge is expected to slowly drift west and break down, especially up towards the Marianas allowing the large trade-wind trough to move west-northwest. This could lead to a circulation to develop near the Marianas and allow a southwest flow to develop across the Marianas.

The series of tradewind troughs are expected to continue to drift west with little change in intensity.

VISITOR

From Page 1

significant increase in arrivals since July 2021 at the implementation of the MVA's Tourism Resumption Investment Plan.

A total of 8,111 visitors arrived from South Korea in August 2022, compared to only 94 visitors in August 2021. There were 75 flights to the CNMI in August, although a rising number of COVID-19 cases in South Korea is making people hesitant to travel. Also, the Korean won (KRW) continues to fall further against the dollar, costing Korean visitors more to purchase the same amount of service compared to before the pandemic.

The Marianas received 148 visitors from Japan in August 2022, compared to only one visitor in August 2021. Beginning on Sept. 1, 2022, three weekly flights from Narita to Saipan by United Airlines began under incentives offered by the TRIP program. The program will continue for an initial six months as the MVA and tourism partners work to stabilize the Japan market. Two major challenges facing the market include Japan's seventh wave of increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, resulting in travel apprehension, and a weak Japanese yen.

The Marianas also received 710 visitors from Guam, 558 visitors from the U.S. and a combined 219 additional visitors from all other destinations in August.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

demic relief.

Sablan in his e-kilili newsletter said as of date, the Commonwealth has received \$69.3 million in FEMA grants related to pandemic relief.

He said the Homeland Security/Emergency Management received \$54.23 million; the Commonwealth government \$7.72 million in lost wages; the Commonwealth Health-

Court to hear dismissal motions in Mafnas' suit in November

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The District Court for the NMI is set to hear the dismissal motions filed by the defense in the lawsuit of Division of Customs director Jose Mafnas in November.

Last Thursday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona issued an order granting the stipulation filed by the parties to continue the motion hearing on the defense's motions to dismiss from Oct. 6 to Nov. 10, to allow the parties more time to file their responses.

The motions that will be heard in November include Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' chief of staff William Castro's motion to dismiss and Department of Finance Secretary David Atalig's motion to dismiss.

The most recent motion filed was from Castro, through his lawyer Colin Thompson, asking the federal court to dismiss the complaint against him made by Mafnas for failing to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

According to Thompson, Mafnas has failed to state a claim under the First Amendment rights as to Castro because there are no allegations that Castro has any authority over plaintiff to effectuate the employment reassignment forming the basis of all of plaintiff's claims.

Thompson added that Mafnas' civil claim for political coercion does not allege any direct threats made by Castro and accordingly fails

to state a claim upon which relief may be granted

"Recognizing, perhaps, that Mr. Castro, in his role as chief of staff for the Office of the Governor, has no actual authority to make decisions regarding Mr. Mafnas' work assignment, plaintiff resorts to vague and spurious allegations in an effort to link Mr. Castro to the administrative decision made by [Finance Secretary David DLG] Atalig to reassign Mr. Mafnas," Thompson said.

In addition, Mafnas al-

leged that some arguably inappropriate text messages were sent by Castro referring

to the plaintiff and allegedly regarding Castro's disappointment with plaintiff's lack of support for the Governor's vision.

"Examining these messages, one must struggle to find any threat, much less a threat to demote in rank, classification, or position, a threat to decrease pay/benefits, or a threat to reduce ten-

ure of employment. If anything the message conveys a willingness on the part of

Mr. Castro to meet with Mr. Mafnas to work out any disagreements they might have 'like men.' The mere mention of having never lost a civil service battle cannot amount to a threat of employment sanction or demotion, particularly when coming from someone out of Mr. Mafnas' chain of command,"

Thompson argued.

Mafnas, through his lawyer Charity Hodson, filed a complaint with the District Court for the NMI and named as defendants Castro, in his personal capacity and in his official capacity as the governor's chief of staff; Atalig, in his personal capacity and in his official capacity as secretary of Finance; and the CNMI government.

Mafnas is suing Castro and Atalig for transferring him to another position in the Department of Commerce.

Mafnas has asked the fed-

eral court to, among other things, prevent Atalig from removing Mafnas from his position as Customs director or to otherwise reinstate him pending a decision on the merits of his complaint.

Mafnas also requested the court to issue a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction against the defendants.

Manglona issued a TRO last Aug. 2 with an expiration date of Aug. 16.

On Aug. 15, Manglona issued a preliminary injunction in favor of Mafnas.



Mafnas

Name: Roxy Suda Sekool
Address: P.O. Box 503038
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 989-9292

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN RE THE
MATTER OF THE
APPOINTMENT OF
AS GUARDIAN OF THE
ESTATE OF:
R.D.J.S.S.
D.S.S.
Minor Children
By:
Roxy Suda Sekool
Petitioner :**

**FCD-GU
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 22-0149**

**NOTICE OF
HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the Estate of the above-named minor children by (Name of Petitioner) Roxy Suda Sekool, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said Petition will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Superior Court before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio on the 26th day of September, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A or as soon as thereafter.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK
PORT OF SAIPAN
CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022
(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of \$200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

Date RFP Package becomes available	August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM)
Date of RFP briefing meeting	September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM)
Deadline to submit Notice of Intent	September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications	October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM)
Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP	October 28, 2022
Deadline for RFP submission	November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM)

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:
/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director
Date 8/26/2022

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FOR FUTURE OF TINIAN'S CATTLE INDUSTRY

CNMI secures partnership with federal agencies

In June of 2022, officials of the National Association of Conservation District visited the Pacific region composed of Guam, the Republic of Palau, and for the very first time, the three main islands of the CNMI.

Led by NACD president Michael Crowder, the goal of the visit was to solidify the partnership between NACD and its Pacific partners.

In August of 2022, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) received an invitation to attend the NACD

» Commonwealth recognized at NACD conference

Pacific-Southwest Regional Conference Imua (go forward): Building Capacity with Partnerships to carry on the new found partnership and “connect with colleagues across federal, state and territory, and local government, as well as private sector and academia” with a unified mission focused on conservation efforts.

During the conference, Jose M. Dela Cruz of Tinian was officially recognized for his innovative techniques and untiring commitment to conservation on the island of Tinian by Crowder as a Soil Health Champion of NACD for the region. As the Soil Health Champion, Dela Cruz is bestowed with the duty to share his knowledge and practice of good soil health management with farmers and ranchers across the region.

The highlight of the trip included the established partnership with DOD Major General Mark A. Hashimoto, USMCR, represented by JRMO Harry Elliot; Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, represented by CBMA special



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

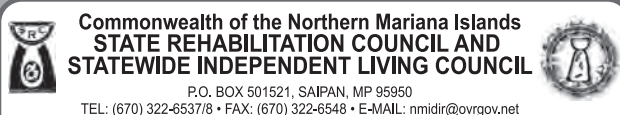
From left, Tinian Cattlemen Association chair Jose M. Dela Cruz, NRCS CNMI District conservationist Pamela M. Sablan, NRCS Western Regional conservationist Astor Boozer, Senate President Hofschneider (R-Tinian), NACD president Michael Crowder; NRCS acting PIA director JB Martin, and NACD chief program officer Jen Nelligan. Virtual attendance made by JRMO Harry Elliot (DOD), CBMA special assistant Glenna Sakisat Palacios, and CNMI DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente.

assistant Glenna Sakisat Palacios; Crowder; NACD chief program officer Jen Nelligan; NRCS acting PIA director JB Martin; NRCS Western Regional conservationist Astor Boozer; NRCS CNMI District conservationist Pamela M. Sablan; Tinian leadership, represented by Hofschneider; TCA chair Jose M. Dela Cruz; and CNMI DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente.

For the first time in years, federal and local leaders gathered to discuss the usage of agricultural land currently located within the military leased area on Tinian. The meeting focused primarily on addressing the land use agreement and policy for the ranchers situated within the MLA.

As expressed by Hofschneider, “food security initiatives must be one of the highest priorities in the CNMI to ensure that we sustain a food supply chain of healthier, locally grown produce and locally raised and grazed meat products. Through the aggressive and unified efforts of the Tinian leadership, the Tinian Cattlemen’s Association, joined forces with our federal and state agencies, and the Department of Defense, it is my privilege to witness all our efforts being recognized on a national level. In line with our federal partners, now is the right time to embrace this opportunity and take advantage of networking across the region.”

Hofschneider further emphasized that “more importantly for our island communities, we must continue and support the practices of conservation and protection of our environment with regards to the detrimental effect of climate change and the rise in sea level. It is very critical at this juncture in our lifetime.” (PR)



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL AND
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL**
P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 • FAX: (670) 322-6548 • E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2022 Fourth General Membership Joint-Meeting on Friday, September 23, 2022, at the Aqua Resort Club, VINO Room from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Roll Call**
- III. **Review and Adoption of Agenda of September 23, 2022**
- IV. **Review and Adoption of Minutes:**
 - a. SRC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of August 29, 2022
 - b. SILC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of July 13, 2022
- V. **Reports**
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - c. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - d. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - e. SILC Chairperson
 - f. CLI Executive Director
 - g. OVR Director
 - i. Fiscal Officer's Report
 - ii. Data Analyst's Report
- VI. **Old Business**
 - a. SRC Membership Vacancy
 - b. SILC Membership Vacancy
 - c. SRC Orientation and Training
- VII. **New Business**
 - a. 2022 National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)
 - b. 2022 Joint Annual Report
- VIII. **Action Items**
 - a. Review and Approval of SRC FY 2023 Resource Plan
 - b. Review and Approval of SILC FY 2023 Resource Plan
 - c. SRC Election of Officers
 - d. SILC Election of Officers
- IX. **Miscellaneous**
- X. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Shana Iguel at (670) 322-6537(voice) or email at shana@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 11:30 am.

/s/ **Preston O. Basa**
SRC Chairperson

/s/ **Gregory P. Borja**
SILC Interim Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-007-19**, for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Commuter Terminal Building Construction, Project No. CPA-SA-007-19* and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), Friday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a new commuter terminal facility with four (4) airline offices and counter space, restaurant vendor space, restrooms for departure and arrivals, lactating room, office space/counter for U.S. Customs and Border Protection including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. In addition, the contractor is provided an allowance for artwork to be provided at the new commuter terminal. The artwork will be locally themed including, but not limited to, painting, murals, or as determined and coordinated with CPA.

The Project is being financed by funds by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **THREE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS (\$300.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless bids are canceled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022**, at the CPA Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward B. Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6500.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid opening extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who picked up a DVD or attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Government wide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date: August 17, 2022

FY2023 BUDGET COMPARISON

DESCRIPTION	Governor's Proposal	Majority Leadership Budget Bill
<i>Total Legislative Branch</i>	<u>\$6,657,189</u>	<u>\$8,965,599</u>
<i>Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation</i>	<u>\$1,169,908</u>	<u>\$196,561</u>
<i>Department of Commerce</i>	\$1,409,897	\$375,251
<i>Department of Community & Cultural Affairs</i>	\$1,441,813	\$484,153
<i>Department of Corrections</i>	\$3,770,763	\$744,335
<i>Department of Fire</i>	\$4,442,836	\$1,084,243
<i>Department of Finance</i>	\$5,342,284	\$1,709,693
<i>Department of Labor</i>	\$676,268	\$176,295
<i>Department of Land & Natural Resources</i>	\$2,145,044	\$674,448
<i>Department of Public Safety</i>	\$5,761,167	\$1,457,534
<i>Department of Public Works</i>	\$2,929,060	\$938,308



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Border crisis not just a Texas problem

For residents of Massachusetts and New York communities who suddenly find themselves hosting migrants from Florida and Texas, the border crisis just got personal.

It's about time.

"The Biden-Harris administration continues ignoring and denying the historic crisis at our southern border, which has endangered and overwhelmed Texas communities for almost two years," said Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has sent over 10,000 migrants to Washington, D.C., New York City and Chicago since the spring.

"Overwhelmed" is an understatement.

"Here at the southern border, we've been seeing 7,000 to 8,000 immigrants coming across every single day, and that's overwhelming the limited resources of these smaller border communities such as Eagle Pass and Del Rio," Texas Department of Public Safety Chris Olivarez told Fox News.

Sending migrants to northern states is part of Abbott's efforts to secure the border, a notion anathema to progressives. It's been fine for Democrats to decry migrant detentions and support open borders when Texas is ground zero for migrant surges. A visit to a border facility makes for great media.

Democratic New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez joined a group of like-minded pols in a 2019 tour of two such facilities. She told CNN "in the last facility, I was not safe from the officers."

That was an excellent opportunity for AOC, or any of the other lawmakers with her, to step up to the plate and offer a helping hand to the beleaguered border towns and cities.

But no — better to keep that crisis in Texas while ranting about it from a thousand miles away.

"Every community in America should be sharing in the burdens. It shouldn't all fall on a handful of red states," said Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Since Abbott and DeSantis exported migrants to these states: Communities have stepped up.

After DeSantis flew nearly 50 immigrants to Martha's Vineyard, residents have mobilized to provide support for the migrants who arrived there unannounced Wednesday, as the Herald reported.

State Rep. Dylan Fernandes, who represents Martha's Vineyard, said in a tweet, "Our island jumped into action putting together 50 beds, giving everyone a good meal, providing a play area for the children, making sure people have the healthcare and support they need. We are a community that comes together to support immigrants."

Well done. That's the whole point of providing sanctuary, is it not?

While Massachusetts is not a sanctuary state as such, there are many cities and towns that have sanctuary city or "welcoming city" policies, including Amherst, Boston, Cambridge, Concord, Lawrence, Northampton, Somerville, Holyoke, Orleans, Chelsea, Salem, Ipswich, Brookline and Newton.

Democrats are fond of the phrase "paying their fair

See **BORDER** on Next Page



Did Xi just learn from Putin?

This was not the way Russia's Vladimir Putin wanted to look, for all the world to see on Thursday, when he walked into the massive and bizarrely flowered and leafy conference room in Uzbekistan for his much-needed meeting with a deep-pocketed counterpart, China's Xi Jinping.

Putin, who has perfected the art and skill of walking into a summit with his dictator's swagger-strut that exudes confidence, must feel these days like he's walking with his telltale tail between his legs. After all, he has just had his worst-ever week — at the end of what has so far been his worst-ever year. We've all seen it play out across our news screens. And all the world knows he has only himself to blame — he started his war in Ukraine.

Putin's most humiliating ultimate week began Monday with Russia's president hearing his famously government-friendly TV talking heads telling ordinary Russians the actual truth about Russia's war in Ukraine. Putin's troops occupying northeast Ukraine had just been humiliatingly routed. Thousands of Russian soldiers fled, leaving behind their weapons and even their uniforms.

Ukraine recaptured more land in a matter of hours than Russia had captured since April.

"It's impossible to defeat Ukraine using the resources that Russia is now trying to fight with, using this 'colonial war' method," declared a former Russian lawmaker, Boris Nadezhdin. "... We either call for mobilization and go for a full-scale war, or we get out."

Other talking heads and print pundits carefully blamed Putin's generals and civilian advisers for giving Russia's president bad advice. But the most stunning bottom line was this: Ordinary Russians were finally getting the truth that Putin's war was going horribly — and could get worse.

Analysts had long ago concluded Putin had started a war pitting Russian invaders and occupiers (who had no idea why they were there or what they were supposed to be fighting for) against Ukraine soldiers (who were fighting for the love of their country and to defend lives of their families).

Back in February, when Putin met with Xi at the Winter Olympics in China, and then when he ordered the invasion of Ukraine, he was brimming with overconfidence that this would be a quick and clear victory. He ordered his troops to swoop in and capture Ukraine's capital, Kyiv.

Remember that 40-mile-long convoy? His Kremlin-approved TV talking heads, brimming with Putin's overconfidence, assured Russians this would be a cakewalk to victory. Maybe just a few days. Remember how quickly it stalled? How easily it was destroyed by Ukraine defenders as Russia's troops fled in panic in June?

Now this. No wonder those Russian talking heads and print

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



pundits sounded stunned and angry Monday after Russia's soldiers panicked and fled, yet again — this time in northeast Ukraine. And no doubt Putin was stunned and angry to hear all that on his government-controlled media.

But all that noise got drowned out by what Putin heard Thursday. He heard the shrill sound of silence — coming from his ally, China's President Xi. Back in February, Xi had declared that his partnership with Putin had "no limits." But on Thursday Xi seemed to feel their partnership had reached its limits after all.

Stunningly, Xi didn't even mention Ukraine in his public remarks. Also stunningly, Putin publicly acknowledged Xi had "questions and concerns" about what happened in Ukraine.

The two leaders sat far away from each other, at the opposite ends of a huge horseshoe-shaped conference rostrum. They talked at each other across a mammoth coffin-shaped planter of dark green leaves and red flowers. It looked like a setting from a Hollywood satire.

Putin, playing his role perfectly, looking unusually grim in the televised portion of their meeting, said: "We highly appreciate the balanced position of our Chinese friends in connection with the Ukrainian crisis. We understand your questions and concerns in this regard."

Xi made only generalized comments about Russia's and China's overall views of the world — and never mentioned publicly any questions or concerns that Putin revealed he had.

Well here's one Xi should have been concerned about — as should every other world leader. What sort of mass destruction might the now globally humiliated and militarily out-generated Russian dictator do out of desperation and revenge? Will he seek to destroy Ukraine's innocent civilians with a chemical weapon? A tactical nuclear weapon?

Last December, I suggested in a column that, if Xi really wants to be the leader of the global economy, there's a lot he could learn from Putin — "not about what to do, but about what not to do."

Maybe this was the week Xi figured it out. Maybe.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Prepare ballots, set up polls, fight Trump saboteurs

This is peak busy season for those who run the country's elections, with the Nov. 8 midterms less than 60 days away.

There are polling places to be situated. Election workers to hire and train. Ballots to proofread and mail out.

And, increasingly, there is a flood of lies and misinformation to combat, along with an apparent attempt by Trump cultists to undermine the election system with a deliberate sabotage campaign.

In recent weeks, election offices around the country have been buried with public records requests pertaining to the 2020 vote, part of an effort led by election deniers including former President Donald Trump's serially indicted ex-strategist Stephen K. Bannon and the MyPillow chief executive and nut case Mike Lindell.

The requests — many identically worded, cut and pasted — shouldn't be mistaken for an honest attempt at holding public officials accountable. Rather, it is a devious attempt to gum up the country's election machinery at the worst possible moment.

Resources that should be devoted to ensuring the smooth execution of November's balloting are instead being diverted to respond to malicious mischief. (Many of the requests seek access to the "cast vote record," which is data produced by devices such as ballot scanners, in the apparent hope of "proving" the widely debunked notion that election machines were tampered with.)

"Paper terrorism" is how Tommy Gong, the elections chief in the Bay Area's Contra Costa County, described it. His office has received 64 public records requests — more than in the previous three years combined — even though the results there were hardly in dispute: Joe Biden walloped Trump 72% to 26%.

By law, each request requires an expeditious response, providing the information or a detailed explanation as to what may be released and what cannot because it is protected by law. That means time and energy taken from more urgent and important responsibilities.

» Election officials have their work cut out

To be clear: There was no widespread fraud in the 2020 election. Numerous audits, scores of lawsuits and Trump's own Justice Department determined as much.

Nor is there a widespread epidemic of voter fraud. The New York Times reviewed hundreds of criminal cases going back to 2017 and found, on average, fewer than two people were charged per state per year. In a nation with nearly 214 million registered voters, that's an infinitesimally small number.

To the extent there is a crisis affecting our election system, it is one largely created by Trump and his deluded followers, some of whom are running for office to hijack and subvert the voting process, and others who seek to undermine its integrity by spreading deliberate falsehoods.

Kind of like an arsonist who strikes a match, then points to the flames as evidence of fire risk.

For the last several years, the National Assn. of Secretaries of State has worked to fight misinformation through a public education campaign, #TrustedInfo2022, steering voters to states' websites and social media pages.

"We're trying to make certain that respective voters have a better understanding of the measures that go into the election process" to dispel myths and build faith in the system, said Tahesha Way, New Jersey's secretary of state and president of the organization.

That doesn't mean fact-checking politicians, or policing political speech.

"Our efforts are focused on distributing as widely and frequently as possible accurate information about voting and registering to vote," said Joe Kocurek, a spokesman for California Secretary of State Shirley Weber.

"We're in a new environment where there are people who use propaganda to dissuade voters from exercising their franchise," Kocurek said. "It's our responsibility to help voters and help counties that administer elections to inform voters about what their voting options are, timelines, eligibility requirements and all of that."

By **MARK Z. BARABAK**

Los Angeles Times



Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, focusing on politics in California and the West.

In the Bay Area, Gong has collaborated with election officials from 11 Northern California counties to dispel misinformation and demystify the voting process by holding information sessions and inviting members of the public to watch as they prepare for the midterm balloting.

"Twenty years ago, a successful election was one where you didn't make the news," Gong said. "Now we're really having to put ourselves out there to advocate for the validity of the election and for the profession of election officials."

(Faithful readers may recall Gong from a previous column as the subject of unwarranted and racist attacks after he oversaw the 2020 balloting in San Luis Obispo County.)

Transparency is a good thing. Subterfuge is not.

Gong said that one small county had an election staffer trained and ready to venture out in the community as part of an education and outreach effort, but that person is now tied up responding to malevolent public records requests.

Inundating election offices with nuisance paperwork won't ensure the probity of November's election. Quite the contrary. It's a cynical attempt to undermine the results, so critics can then point to any lapses to justify their phony claims of fraud and malfeasance.

Don't let it succeed. Be sure to vote. Act as if the future of American democracy depends on it.

Because it does.

The real reason Americans love royalty

Iam American, a citizen of a country that long ago rejected monarchs and sovereigns. I have never lived under a king or a queen, and it's difficult for me to understand why the British persist in doing so in the modern world. It seems anachronistic, egalitarian—and oddly stiff and starchy to boot.

I'm sorry to say it while the late Queen Elizabeth is lying in state, but if the crown were to be tossed aside and the House of Windsor were to sink into the muck tomorrow, it would not bother me at all.

Still—and here's the really strange thing—I am following the news avidly. I'm clicking on photo galleries, watching videos, reading stories. I can't help being fascinated by the royals, and in that, I'm like millions of Americans. Even the Democrats and Republicans in Congress, who barely speak to each other, came together as Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., offered thoughts and prayers for the queen from the Senate floor. Wall Street traders took time out from making money to bow their heads. American flags went to half staff.

Why would a country that in 1776 declared its independence from an English king it called "unfit to be the ruler of a free people" still be home in 2022 to 29.2 million people willing to wake up at dawn to watch Prince Harry marry Meghan Markle? What's this all about?

There are plenty of explanations kicking around. Some say it's the pomp and the outlandish get-ups. Or our incurable obsession with celebrity and soap opera. Or the comfort of age-old traditions and rituals. Or the "special relationship" between the U.S. and the UK.

But for me at least—and I suspect for many Americans—the

fascination is both simpler and deeper, something that goes back to childhood, permeates our culture and is not likely to disappear soon.

Because even though we divorced ourselves from the crown nearly 250 years ago, we've clung desperately to the mythical idea of royalty—the legends, the stories, the glamor. From birth we're raised on heroic kings, beautiful queens, kidnapped princesses and frog princes.

For me it began with King Arthur. I was no more than 7 or 8 when I first heard the legends of the knights of the Round Table and the king of Britain to whom they were loyal, and when I first learned about the codes of honor, chivalry and bravery they supposedly lived by.

I soon became fascinated by the idea that the humdrum lives of children like me could, with the flick of a wand or a sudden revelation about secret parentage, be radically transformed. So many of the stories I was raised on were about ordinary boys and girls of no rank whatsoever who suddenly found themselves being called "Your Majesty" or "Your Royal Highness." Like Arthur, who was entirely unaware of his royal lineage until he pulled the sword from the stone. Or the pauper Tom Canty who traded places with a prince in Mark Twain's novel. Or Taran the assistant pig keeper in Lloyd Alexander's "Prydain" series.

Like countless other Americans, my imagination was particularly ignited by C.S. Lewis' Narnia stories about four ordinary English schoolchildren—two brothers and two sisters—who became kings and queens in a strange land where animals could speak and magic was real.

These fantastical worlds maintained a hold on me long after I stopped reading children's books. So how could I not be enthralled even decades later by the real-life story of an ordinary Los Angeles girl, Meghan Markle, who was suddenly transformed into a princess?

In addition to the ordinary people who became royal I also loved the stories of the royals who became ordinary, venturing down from their magnificent palaces to mingle in disguise among the common folk.

There was Aragorn in "The Fellowship of the Ring," the heir to an ancient kingdom who first appears as a "strange-looking, weatherbeaten man" in mud-caked boots as he drinks a tankard of god-knows-what at the Prancing Pony Inn.

And King Richard the Lionheart, who (in the Erroll Flynn movie version of the Robin Hood story, among other places) ar-

By **NICHOLAS GOLDBERG**

Los Angeles Times



Nicholas Goldberg is an associate editor and Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

rives in Sherwood Forest dressed as a monk and learns what the people really think of him.

And Audrey Hepburn as Princess Ann in "Roman Holiday," who sneaks out of her royal lodgings and spends the evening drinking, dancing and falling in love among ordinary people in Rome.

There were echoes of all those in the story that went viral this week about Queen Elizabeth on a Scottish walking trail, not quite in disguise but not wearing her crown-and-robos either, when she met two American tourists who didn't recognize her. Let's just say, she handled the situation well.

The queen, with her stalwart life of mundane "service," endless hospital visits and factory openings and famously banal receiving line chit-chat, may not be as exciting as Aragorn or Arthur. Nor is Charles. But the Windsors are among the most visible remnants of the archetype, so we cling to them as best we can.

Even though we know better. Even though we know the true story of the British monarchy is as much about conquest and empire as chivalry.

Even though Queen Elizabeth was not a swashbuckling, sword-wielding monarch. She liked horses, but she didn't gallop them into battle.

Even though the power of British kings and queens has been mostly taken away, and all they have left are their palaces and vast wealth, their titles, pomp, tradition and factory openings.

Even though the vast majority of Americans would not under any circumstances choose to live in a monarchy.

Despite that, royalty still represents an era gone by, romanticized but not forgotten. We may live in a more mundane and less chivalric age, but we haven't forgotten the stories.

BORDER






From Page 8

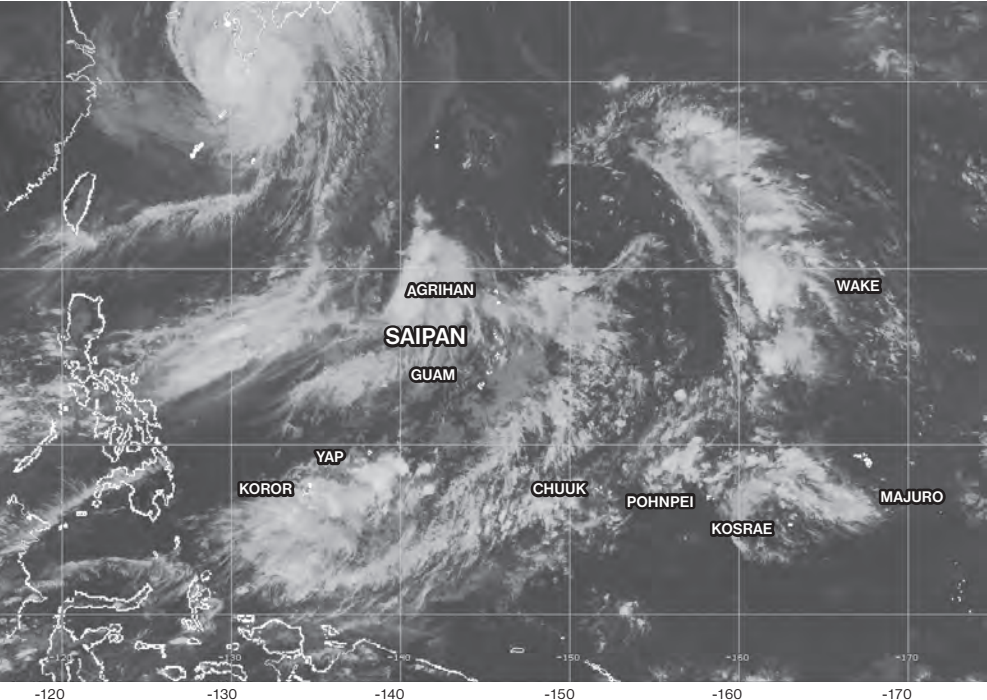
share," when it comes to getting big corporations to pay more taxes. Everyone should contribute, they reason.

Housing and supporting the influx of migrants across our borders should be another "fair share" situation. Unless of course, you're a Democrat who has soft-pedaled border security and who would now face constituents dealing with the effects of migrant surges up close and personal.

Martha's Vineyard rose to the occasion — who will follow?

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
87°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	88°	77°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:12 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam`s Doppler radar shows scattered well east of the Marianas this morning. Light to gentle northeast winds prevail across the Marinas with Ritidian and Tanapag buoys reporting combined seas around 7 to 8 feet, driven by the large northwest swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 75°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:09 AM	1:40 PM	-
Tuesday	1:00 AM	2:29 PM	-
Wednesday	1:52 AM	3:16 PM	-
Thursday	2:45 AM	3:59 PM	-
Friday	3:37 AM	4:39 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Rain	62° / 56°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	82° / 58°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	75° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
Osaka	Showers/Wind	90° / 71°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66° / 46°	
Busan	Rain/Wind	79° / 64°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	80° / 60°	
Salem	Sunny	87° / 65°	
San Francisco	Rain	71° / 60°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	81° / 57°	
Tokyo	Showers	84° / 78°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	86° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:22 AM	High Tide	1.47	
8:35 AM	Low Tide	0.25	
4:46 PM	High Tide	1.63	
10:11 PM	Low Tide	1.29	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6	UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily	PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam
SAIPAN-NARITA				NARITA-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:00AM	9:30AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00 AM+1	2, 4, 7
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	4
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 4, 7	7C3406	8:50AM	2:50PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
				TW307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
				TW307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:00PM	6:35PM	3, 7	BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7	7C3452	9:00AM	2:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T*Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
7:00 A.M.	7:15 A.M.	(Except Sundays)	7:35 A.M.	7:50 A.M.	(Except Sundays)
9:50 A.M.	10:05 A.M.		10:25 A.M.	10:40 A.M.	
4:00 P.M.	4:15 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)	4:35 P.M.	4:50 P.M.	(Except Saturdays)
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
8:10 A.M.	8:40 A.M.		9:00 A.M.	9:30 A.M.	
1:45 P.M.	2:15 P.M.		2:35 P.M.	3:05 P.M.	
SAIPAN TO GUAM			GUAM TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:10 A.M.	12:00 P.M.		12:30 P.M.	1:20 P.M.	
5:15 P.M.	6:05 P.M.		6:40 P.M.	7:30 P.M.	

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Leon Guerrero conducts site visit to address Hågat flooding

HAGATNA, Guam—Following heavy rain showers and isolated flash flooding, Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero visited affected southern families on Thursday morning to address the situation and discuss long-term solutions in the RR Cruz and Finile areas of Hågat.

"This is a reminder of not

just the devastation caused by heavy rain but the long-term needs of communities periodically impacted by natural disasters. Our Administration will stand by those communities until the work is done to ensure that our response to such disasters is the best it can possibly be," said Leon Guerrero. "In conducting our



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said crews from the Department of Public Works activated immediately and worked into the night on Wednesday to clean area culverts.

site visit, we saw firsthand the effects of flash flooding on our island's families. Crews from the Department of Public Works activated immediately and worked into the night on Wednesday to clean area culverts, remove vegetation, and clear waterways in both Malleso' and Hågat. Mitigation efforts were in place for these areas before the recent flooding, but we know that we must work n swiftly to deliver more

sustainable solutions. While response efforts are as robust as can be, we are taking the steps to make more meaningful investments that will enhance our resiliency."

The Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) was recently sub-awarded \$189,000 to address a long-term solution for this area from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero saw firsthand the effects of flash flooding in Guam during her site visit of the RR Cruz and Finile areas of Hågat.

(BRIC) program, which is administered by the Guam Office of Homeland Security. BSP intends to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study that will assess storm drainage and watershed management. The planning area consists of the south tributary of Finile Creek, Little Manila Street, the confluence of Finile Creek River, Orong Street, and the

Finile Sub-watershed.

"These response efforts are ongoing as we continue to work closely with our federal and local partners to respond as quickly and effectively as possible, for as long as necessary, until these communities are built back stronger than before," Leon Guerrero added. "We thank Mayor Kevin Susuico and our dedicated DPW crews for their historic action on this issue." (PR)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CUC-RSQ-22-037

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR CUC'S SUSTAINABLE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (SWIMS) PROGRAM

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified firms for Program Management Services for CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program. This is a comprehensive planning, investigation, design, construction and operations approach to manage Non-Revenue Water and the delivery of safe and affordable drinking water to the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the RSQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RSQ 22-037, Request for Statement of Qualifications for Program Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) Program" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 11, 2022**. Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to a lack of information or understanding of the RSQ requirements in the course of the Consultant's preparation of an SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible to being selected for the award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-040

A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary for the removal of the existing A-16 Sewer Lift Station 350 KW Generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, procurement of a new 350 KW generator and Automatic Transfer Switch, modification of the existing concrete generator pad to match the new pad size requirement (if needed), restoration of the existing oil containment berm, repair of exhaust & muffler, and equipment start-up and commissioning. The work shall be done in accordance with the Scope of Work and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-040, A-16 Sewer Lift Station Generator Replacement" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 13, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of One Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 23, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Purchasing Technician Senior via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

PayPal: If Sarver stays, it won't remain Suns sponsor

PayPal said Friday that the company will no longer sponsor the Phoenix Suns if owner Robert Sarver remains part of the franchise when his suspension ends.

And the National Basketball Players Association later made its stance clear, with executive director Tamika Tremaglio telling ESPN that NBA players want Sarver banned for life.

PayPal said its current partnership deal with the Suns ends after the coming 2022-23 season, meaning it will expire during Sarver's one-year suspension from the NBA. Sarver was suspended this week, plus fined \$10 million, after an investigation showed a pattern of lewd, misogynistic and racist speech and conduct during his 18 years as owner of the Suns.

In a statement, PayPal President and CEO Dan Schulman pointed to his company's "strong record of combatting racism, sexism and all forms of discrimina-

tion" and said Sarver's conduct is "unacceptable and in conflict with our values."

"In light of the findings of the NBA's investigation, we will not renew our sponsorship should Robert Sarver remain involved with the Suns organization, after serving his suspension," Schulman said.

Schulman said PayPal will remain supportive of the team, its players "and the experienced and diverse talent now leading the organization," including coach Monty Williams, general manager James Jones, assistant general manager Morgan Cato and senior vice president of people and culture Kim Corbitt.

Williams, Jones, Cato and Corbitt are Black. The investigation into Sarver showed he "repeated or purported to repeat the N-word on at least five occasions spanning his tenure with the Suns," though it noted that the independent lawyers hired by the

NBA to conduct the probe made "no finding that Sarver used this racially insensitive language with the intent to demean or denigrate."

PayPal's statement came one day after Suns vice chairman Jahm Najafi called for Sarver to resign, saying there should be "zero tolerance" for lewd, misogynistic and racist conduct in any workplace. Some players, including Suns guard Chris Paul—a past president of the National Basketball Players Association— and Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James, also have said the NBA's sanctions of Sarver did not go far enough.

Those statements from Paul and James came Wednesday, hours after NBA Commissioner Adam Silver detailed some of his reasons for deciding a suspension and fine were the proper sanctions. On Friday, Tremaglio told ESPN the union "absolutely" wants Sarver ousted from the league. (AP)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Serious breach at Uber spotlights hacker social deception

The ride-hailing service Uber said Friday that all its services were operational following what security professionals are calling a major data breach, claiming there was no evidence the hacker got access to sensitive user data. But the breach, apparently by a lone hacker, put the spotlight on an increasingly effective break-in routine involving social engineering: The hacker apparently gained access posing as a colleague, tricking an Uber employee into surrendering their credentials. They were then able to locate passwords on the network that got them the level of privileged access reserved for system administrators. The potential damage was serious: Screenshots the hacker shared with security researchers indicate they obtained full access to the cloud-based systems where Uber stores sensitive customer and financial data. (AP)

Egypt to raise Suez Canal transit fees for ships in 2023

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt said on Saturday that it will increase transit fees for vessels, including oil-laden tankers, passing through Suez Canal, one of

the world's most crucial waterways. The Suez Canal Authority said in a statement on Saturday that it will add 15% to the fees for tankers carrying oil and petroleum products, and 10% for dry bulk carriers and cruise ships. The authority's chief, Osama Rabie, said the hikes, which will take effect on Jan. 1, are "inevitable and a necessity." He blamed booming global inflation rates, which have increased the cost of the waterway's operations, maintenance, and maritime services. About 10% of global trade, including 7% of the world's oil, flows through the Suez Canal, a major source of foreign currency to Egypt, the most Arab populous country with over 103 million people. Egypt has faced towering economic challenges and is running low on foreign currency needed to buy essentials such as grain and fuel. Authorities said 20,649 vessels passed through the canal last year, a 10% increase compared to 18,830 vessels in 2020. The annual revenues of the canal reached \$6.3 billion in 2021, the highest in its history. Canal authorities have been working to widen and deepen the waterway's southern part, since a hulking vessel ran aground and closed off the canal in March 2021. The six-day blockage disrupted global shipment.

Poland opens new sea waterway to cut dependence from Russia

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland's top leaders celebrated the opening Saturday of a new —albeit unfinished — canal that they say will mean ships no longer must secure Russia's permission to sail from the Baltic Sea to the ports of the Vistula Lagoon. The event was timed to mark 83 years since the Soviet invasion of Poland during World War II and to demonstrate symbolically the end of Moscow's say on the economy and development of a region that borders Russia's Kaliningrad exclave. The government says the waterway gives Poland full sovereignty in the north-eastern region, which needs investment and economic development. "The idea was to have this waterway opened and not to have to ask permission anymore from a country that is not friendly and whose authorities do not hesitate to attack and subdue others," Polish President Andrzej Duda said. He said the investment will pay off through the increase in the value of the land around it, through the development of the cities and ports on the lagoon thanks to increased trade, business and tourism.

Nation

US asking appeals court to lift judge's Mar-a-Lago probe hold



Pages from the Justice Department's motion to the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta are photographed Friday, Sept. 16, 2022.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department asked a federal appeals court Friday to lift a judge's order that temporarily barred it from reviewing a batch of classified documents seized during an FBI search of former President Donald Trump's Florida home last month.

The department told the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Atlanta that the judge's hold, imposed last week, had impeded the "government's efforts to protect the nation's security" and interfered with its investigation into the presence of top-secret information at Mar-a-Lago. It asked the court to remove that order so work could resume, and to halt a judge's directive forcing the department to provide the seized classified documents to an independent

arbitrator for his review.

"The government and the public would suffer irreparable harm absent a stay" of the order, department lawyers wrote in their brief to the appeals court.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon's appointment of a so-called special master to review the documents, and the resulting legal tussle it has caused, appear certain to slow by weeks the department's investigation into the holding of classified documents at the Florida property after Trump left office. The Justice Department has been investigating possible violations of multiple statutes, including under the Espionage Act, but it remains unclear whether Trump — who has been laying the groundwork for a potential presidential run—or anyone

else might be charged.

The FBI says it took about 11,000 documents, including roughly 100 with classification markings found in a storage room and an office, while serving a court-authorized search warrant at the home on Aug. 8. Weeks after the search, Trump lawyers asked a judge to appoint a special master to conduct an independent review of the records.

Cannon granted the request last week, assigning a special master to review the records and weed out any that may be covered by claims of attorney-client or executive privilege. She directed the department to halt its use of the classified documents for investigative purposes until further court order, or until the completion of the special master's work.

California enacts law to help LGBTQ military veterans

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A new law in California will help military service members who were discharged under "don't ask, don't tell" policies because of their sexual or gender identities to reestablish their eligibility for Veterans Affairs benefits, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Saturday.

"For decades, our bravest heroes, men and women who wore the uniforms of the armed services had to hide who they really were, and many were other than honorably discharged if their sexuality was discovered," Newsom said in a statement after announcing he had signed the bill.

Gay and lesbians were banned in the military until

the 1993 approval of "don't ask, don't tell," which allowed them to serve only if they did not openly acknowledge their sexual orientation. Rather than helping, advocates say, the policy created more problems. In its entire history, the military dismissed more than 100,000 service members based on their sexual or gender identities — 14,000 of them during "don't ask, don't tell."

Repeal of the law was approved by Congress and then President Barack Obama in late 2010 and took effect nine months later, allowing lesbian, gay and bisexual people to serve openly.

The Department of Defense subsequently created a path for veterans who had

been discharged under the policy to receive the full range of veterans' benefits.

"But many veterans sadly don't know or can't even access this important process," Newsom said, adding that some veterans trying to reclaim benefits have had to hire expensive legal counsel and other assistance to navigate the process. "We're taking steps to fix this."

The law will require the California Department of Veteran Affairs to establish the Veterans Discharge Upgrade Grant Program to help advise LGBTQ veterans who were discharged under "don't ask, don't tell" and to help those who qualify to update and correct their records and access veterans' benefits.

Asia

WHO raises alarm on disease in flood-hit areas of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The World Health Organization raised the alarm Saturday about a “second disaster” in the wake of the deadly floods in Pakistan this summer, as doctors and medical workers on the ground race to battle outbreaks of waterborne and other diseases.

The floodwaters started receding this week in the worst-hit provinces but many of the displaced—now living in tents and makeshift camps — increasingly face the threat of gastrointestinal infections, dengue fever and malaria, which are on the rise. The dirty and stagnant waters have become breeding grounds for mosquitos.

The unprecedented monsoon rains since mid-June, which many experts link to climate change, and subsequent flooding have killed 1,545 people across Pakistan, inundated millions of acres of land and affected 33 million people. As many as 552 children have also been killed in the floods.

“I am deeply concerned about the potential for a second disaster in Pakistan: a wave of disease and death following this catastrophe, linked to climate change, that has severely impacted vital health systems leaving millions vulnerable,” WHO’s director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said in a statement.

“The water supply is disrupted, forcing people to drink unsafe water,” he said. “But if we act quickly to protect



AP
Displaced families, who fled their flood-hit homes, jostle to get relief aid distributed by soldiers of Pakistan rangers, in Dera Allahyar, in Jafferabad, a district of southwestern Balochistan province, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022.

health and deliver essential health services, we can significantly reduce the impact of this impending crisis.”

The WHO chief also said that nearly 2,000 health facilities have been fully or partially damaged in Pakistan and urged donors to continue to respond generously so that more lives can be saved.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif left for New York on Saturday to attend the first fully in-person gathering of world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly since the coronavirus pandemic. Sharif will appeal for more help from the international community to tackle the disaster.

Before his departure, Sharif urged philanthropists and aid agencies to donate baby food for children, along with blan-

kets, clothes and other food items for the flood victims, saying they were desperately waiting for aid.

The southern Sindh and southwestern Baluchistan provinces have been the worst hit—hundreds of thousands in Sindh live now in makeshift homes and authorities say it will take months to completely drain the water in the province.

Nationwide, floods have damaged 1.8 million homes, washed away roads and destroyed nearly 400 bridges, according to the National Disaster Management Authority.

Imran Baluch, head of a government-run district hospital in Jafferabad, in the district of Dera Allah Yar in Baluchistan, said that out of 300 people tested daily, nearly 70% are positive for malaria.

S. Korea, Japan differ over summit plan amid history dispute

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The leaders of South Korea and Japan will meet next week on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Seoul officials said Thursday, in what would be the countries’ first summit in nearly three years amid tensions over history.

But in an indication of the continuing delicate nature of bilateral ties, Japan denied later Thursday that any agreement on talks had been reached.

An official in South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol’s office said the two sides had agreed on a meeting between Yoon and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and were discussing the exact timing.

Kim Tae-hyo, a deputy national security director for Yoon, told reporters that the meeting is one of a series that Yoon is pushing to hold with world

leaders attending the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday and Wednesday. He said South Korea and the U.S. have also agreed on a meeting between Yoon and President Joe Biden.

However, in response to a question from The Associated Press about the South Korean announcement, the Japanese Prime Minister’s Office said “there is no such fact.”

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said details of Kishida’s schedule in New York have not been determined. He added, however, that Japan wants to cooperate closely with South Korea to restore healthy relations.

South Korea’s presidential office said it needed to study the Japanese comments before responding.

Japanese officials may have been unhappy over South Korea’s unilateral announcement

of a meeting, with details likely still under discussion. It remained unclear whether Yoon and Kishida would meet next week.

Ties between South Korea and Japan, both key U.S. allies, are at their lowest point in decades after South Korean courts ruled in 2018 that two Japanese companies — Nippon Steel and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries — must compensate former Korean employees for forced labor during Japan’s 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The companies and the Japanese government have refused to comply with the rulings, arguing that all compensation issues were resolved under a 1965 treaty that normalized ties between the countries and included a payment of \$500 million from Japan to South Korea.

World

For Russia's Putin, military, diplomatic pressures mount

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin mounted on the battlefield and in the halls of global power as Ukrainian troops pushed their counteroffensive Saturday to advance farther into Ukraine’s partly recaptured northeast.

Western officials and analysts said Russian forces were apparently setting up a new defensive line in Ukraine’s northeast after the counteroffensive punched through the previous one, allowing Kyiv’s soldiers to recapture large swaths of land in the northeastern Kharkiv region that borders Russia.

Putin, at a high-level summit in Uzbekistan this week, vowed to press his attack on Ukraine despite the recent military setbacks but also faced concerns by India and China over the drawn-out conflict.

“I know that today’s era is not of war,” Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Russian leader in televised comments as they met Friday in Uzbekistan. “We discussed this with you on the phone several times, that democracy and dialogue touch the entire world.”

At the same summit a day earlier, Putin acknowledged China’s unspecified “questions and concerns” about the war in Ukraine while



AP
Ukrainian servicemen carry a bag containing the body of a Ukrainian soldier, center, as one of them, right, carries the remains of a body of a Russian soldier in a retaken area near the border with Russia in Kharkiv region, Ukraine, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022.

thanking President Xi Jinping for Beijing’s “balanced position” on the conflict.

The hurried retreat of Russian troops this month from parts of a northeast region they occupied early in the war, together with the rare public reservations expressed by key allies, underscored the challenges that Putin faces on all fronts. Both China and India have maintained strong ties with Russia and had sought to remain neutral on Ukraine.

Xi, in a statement, expressed support for Russia’s “core interests” but also wanted to work together to “inject stability” into world affairs. Modi said he wanted to discuss “how we can

move forward on the path of peace,” adding that the biggest concerns facing the world are the problems of food security, fuel security and fertilizers.

“We must find some way out and you too must contribute to that,” Modi stressed in a rare public rebuke.

The comments cast a shadow over a summit that Putin had hoped would burnish his diplomatic status and show he was not so internationally isolated.

On the battlefield, Britain’s Defense Ministry said the new front line likely was between the Oskil River and Svatove, 150 kilometers (90 miles) southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city.

US-UK relations enter new chapter as new PM, king settle in

LONDON (AP)—President Joe Biden arrived in London to pay his respects to Queen Elizabeth II at a time of transition in U.S.-U.K. relations, as both a new monarch and a new prime minister are settling in.

The hawkish approach of Prime Minister Liz Truss to Russia and China puts her on the same page as Biden. But the rise of Truss, 47, who once called the relationship “special but not exclusive,” could mark a decidedly new chapter in the trans-Atlantic partnership on trade and more.

Of high concern for Biden officials in the early going of Truss’s premiership is her backing of legislation that would shred parts of the post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland. Analysts say the move could cause deep strain between the U.K. and the European Union, and undermine peace in Northern Ireland. White

House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the move “would not create a conducive environment” for crafting a long-awaited U.S.-UK trade deal coveted by Truss and her Conservative Party.

“She’s signaled that she’s willing to go to the mattresses on this and that’s going to cause a rift not just between the U.K. and EU, but the UK and the U.S.,” said Max Bergmann, director of the Europe program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington and a former senior State Department official in the Obama administration. “It’s one that’s going to keep the White House up at night.”

Biden arrived in London late Saturday and had been set to meet with Truss on Sunday, but the prime minister’s office said Saturday they would skip the weekend hello, opting instead for a meeting in New York at the

U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday, though Truss still planned to gather with other world leaders converging on London for the royal funeral. The White House confirmed the U.N. meeting just as the president boarded Air Force One.

The two close allies now find themselves in a period of political uncertainty on both sides of the Atlantic. Not unlike his fellow septuagenarian Biden, King Charles III faces questions from the public about whether his age will limit his ability to faithfully carry out the duties of the monarch.

Charles, 73, and Biden, 79, discussed global cooperation on the climate crisis last year while both attended a summit in Glasgow, Scotland. They also met at Buckingham Palace in June 2021 at a reception the queen hosted before a world leaders’ summit in Cornwall.

Health & Wellness

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Mayo Clinic News Network

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I am a mother of two, work full time and am also a breast cancer survivor. I know physical exercise is important, so I try to visit the gym a few times a week for weight training and to walk. A friend recently invited me to a yoga class. I have never thought about adding yoga to my fitness routine. What are the benefits, and how would I get started?

ANSWER: Yoga is a wonderful form of exercise that provides benefits that walking and strength training do not provide. In Eastern cultures, yoga is not seen as exercise, but rather “a moving meditation.” In the Western world, many people know power yoga or vinyasa yoga, which are classified as exercise.

Regardless of the type, the practice of yoga brings together physical and mental disciplines that may help you achieve peacefulness of body and mind, relax, and manage the stress and anxiety associated with being a busy mom and living with cancer.

Yoga can provide three primary benefits that a typical gym routine may not provide: improved nervous system function, improved joint range of motion and improved dynamic balance.

Improved nervous system function

Since yoga is based on breathing, parts of the nervous system are affected when you lengthen the amount of time you exhale, and control your breathing. This is cued throughout particular yoga sequences. Specifically, yoga can help lower the fight-or-flight response and improve the body’s “rest-and-digest” response.

Practicing slow, controlled breathing stimulates the body’s vagus nerve, which takes information about the current state of relaxation and relays it to the rest of the body, including the brain. One area affected when the vagal nerve is stimulated is the parasympathic nervous system, which controls the body’s rest and digestion functions.

The mindful breathing practiced in yoga increases the activity of the parasympathic nervous system. As a result, yoga lowers the heart rate, improves digestion and quality of sleep, and strengthens the immune system. Another benefit is reduced stress.

Improved joint range of motion

The difference between flexibility and active range of motion is important. Think of flex-

Mayo Clinic Q and A: What’s the benefit of yoga?



ibility as how much a muscle can be passively stretched. In contrast, range of motion is how much muscles can be used to control a joint’s movement.

It is not uncommon these days for people to report neck and back pain, and poor range

of motion in their thoracic spine due to constant sitting, typing on computers and looking down at cellphones. Yoga is excellent in improving thoracic range of motion because many poses involve extending the body through the rib cage

and using strength to hold these postures.

Yoga incorporates all four motions of the spine: flexion, extension, rotation and side-bending. Therefore, yoga can prevent stiffness and disuse that also can occur with age.

Being able to control the available range of motion in joints is crucial to good posture and decreasing the risk of injury.

Improved dynamic balance

Think of balance like a muscle.

By working hard at different exercises, balance can improve. This is similar to improved strength by lifting weights.

Balance is a complex system, requiring three parts: the sensation of the foot on the ground, or proprioception; vision; and the inner ear, or vestibular system. These three parts tell the brain where the head is in space. These three components work together to control both static and dynamic balance.

Yoga trains the proprioception and visual systems to improve balance. Depending on the pose, cues are sent to focus, for instance, on the foot rooted to the ground. By concentrating in an attempt to maintain contact, the big toe, little toe and heel form a tripod of sorts, which in turn helps focus the proprioception portion of balance.

In yoga, you may hear the term “drishti,” which refers to obtaining a focused gaze or focus in the mind. The concept comes into play as people aim to hold a pose with their eyes closed. Certain poses become more challenging with eyes closed, which improves the visual part of balance.

Also, moving back and forth between poses without fully touching a limb to the ground can increase the ability to dynamically move and not lose balance. Over time, this will reduce the risk of falling while walking on uneven ground or turning quickly.

Is yoga right for you?

If you choose to try yoga, go slow and try different kinds to find what works for you. Although you can learn yoga from books and videos, beginners usually find it helpful to learn with an instructor. Visiting a class with your friend may be more enjoyable in that it will offer support to you and time together, which is just as important to overall well-being as fitness.

When you find a class that sounds interesting, talk with the instructor so that you know what to expect. You may want to speak to the instructor in advance about expectations for the class. And remember, you don’t have to do every pose. If a pose is uncomfortable or you can’t hold it as long as the instructor requests, don’t do it. Good instructors will understand and encourage you to explore—but not exceed—your personal limits.

While it may be hard to add one more thing to your busy life routine, incorporating yoga into your fitness routine can benefit your stress level, mobility and balance in ways that may not be achieved from your regular gym routine. — **Compiled by Mayo Clinic staff**

Do you fall down when you stand up?

By HEIDI GODMAN
HARVARD HEALTH LETTER

A variety of approaches can help keep you upright when blood pressure takes a sudden dip.

Blood pressure that drops when you stand—what doctors call orthostatic hypotension—affects nearly one in three older adults. It’s also a common cause of falls, according to a scientific statement from the American Heart Association, published online May 19, 2022, by *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*.

“There are serious consequences to orthostatic hypotension. People can fall and fracture their hips and other bones. Some people can’t even get out of bed without feeling dizzy or lightheaded and fainting. It can be incapacitating,” says Dr. Roy Freeman, a neurologist who specializes in treating orthostatic hypotension at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Orthostatic hypotension can be hard to manage. But because of the risks, it’s important to do as much as possible to control it.

Orthostatic hypotension causes

When you stand, gravity pulls blood downward, away from your brain and heart. Blood pressure falls, and the body’s alarm bells go off. Normally, this triggers automatic reflexes: the brain sends nerve signals that cause the heart to beat faster and blood pressure to rise, restoring normal blood flow to the brain and heart.

Several things can throw off that system. One is aging, which causes sensors monitoring blood pressure to become less responsive: they don’t immediately notice the drop in blood pressure.

The bigger contributors can be divided into two categories: Nerve problems. Several conditions, such as diabetes or Parkinson’s disease, can damage the autonomic nerves involved in blood pressure control. If orthostatic hypotension results, it’s said to be neurogenic. This type of orthostatic hypotension can be severe and disabling.

Circulation problems. Anything that decreases the amount of fluid in your blood vessels—such as dehydration, a medication, or a heart problem—can

cause blood pressure to drop too low when you stand. Usually, this type of orthostatic hypotension is less serious than the kind caused by nerve problems.

What you can do

If the problem reflects fluid loss from a medication, such as an antidepressant or a diuretic, your doctor often can switch you to a different drug. When the underlying problem is neurogenic, such as from long-standing diabetes, your doctor will likely recommend a combination of therapies.

Here are some strategies to help all types of orthostatic hypotension:

■ **Keep up your blood volume.** “Drink at least 3 liters of fluid per day, and make sure you’re eating 4 to 6 grams of salt per day,” Dr. Freeman advises. “This will increase your blood volume.” You need to monitor your blood pressure to be sure that this approach doesn’t cause high blood pressure at times other than when you’re standing up.

■ **Take medication to alleviate light-headedness.** A

number of drugs may help, such as midodrine (Orvaten, ProAmatine) or droxidopa (Northera), which tighten blood vessels and thereby increase blood pressure. Another option is fludrocortisone (Florinef), which increases sodium in the body so you retain water; that increases blood volume and raises blood pressure.

■ **Avoid hot environments.** Warmth can cause the blood vessels to dilate (widen), which can lower blood pressure further when you stand up.

■ **Get up slowly from a sitting or lying position.** This will give your body time to restore normal blood flow.

■ **Wear compression stockings.** These may be helpful in certain situations—such as when you’re standing for long periods—to help promote better circulation. But Dr. Freeman does not recommend using them routinely to avoid orthostatic hypotension.

■ **Sit for 30 minutes after eating.** “Eating causes blood vessels to dilate, so be particularly careful about standing up following a meal. For people who have orthostatic hypotension, it helps to eat

Life & Style

Queen's 8 grandchildren hold silent vigil beside her coffin

LONDON (AP)—All eight of Queen Elizabeth II's grandchildren stood in silent vigil beside her coffin Saturday, capping another huge day in which thousands came to pay their respects. Mourners huddled in a line that snaked across London, enduring the city's coldest night in months and waits that stretched up to 16 hours.

Authorities warned that more chilly weather was expected Saturday night. "Tonight's forecast is cold. Warm clothing is recommended," the ministry in charge of the line tweeted.

As U.S. President Joe Biden and other world leaders and dignitaries flew into London ahead of the queen's state funeral on Monday, a tide of people wanting to say goodbye streamed into Parliament's Westminster Hall for another day Saturday. That's where the queen's coffin is lying in state, draped in her Royal Standard and capped with a diamond-studded crown.

The numbers of mourners have grown steadily since the public was first admitted on Wednesday, with a queue that snakes around Southwark Park and stretches for at least 5 miles (8 kilometers).

Honoring their patience, King Charles III and his eldest son Prince William made an unannounced visit Saturday to greet people waiting to file past Elizabeth's coffin, shaking hands and thanking mourners in the queue near Lambeth Bridge.

Later, all the queen's grandchildren stood by her coffin. William and Prince Harry, Charles' sons, were joined by Princess Anne's children, Zara Tindall and Peter Phillips; Prince



Left to right: Zara Tindall, Lady Louise, Princess Beatrice, Prince William, the prince of Wales, Prince Harry, Princess Eugenie, Viscount James Severn and Peter Phillips attend the vigil of the Queen's grandchildren around the coffin, as it lies in state on the catafalque in Westminster Hall, at the Palace of Westminster, London, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, ahead of her funeral on Monday.

Andrew's daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie; and the two children of Prince Edward—Lady Louise Windsor and James, Viscount Severn.

William, now the heir to the throne, stood, his head bowed, at the head of the coffin and Harry at the foot. Both princes, who are military veterans, were in uniform. Mourners continued to file past in silence.

Harry, who served in Afghanistan as a British army officer, wore civilian clothes earlier in the week as the queen's coffin left Buckingham Palace because he is no longer a working member of the royal family. He and his wife Meghan quit royal duties and moved to the United States in 2020. The king, however, requested that both William and Harry wear their military uniforms at the Westminster Hall vigil.

Before the vigil, Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie issued a statement praising their "beloved grannie."

"We, like many, thought you'd be here forever. And we all miss you terribly. You were our matriarch, our guide, our loving hand on our backs leading us through this world. You taught us so much and we will cherish those lessons and memories forever," the sisters wrote.

People queuing to see the queen have been of all ages and come from all walks of life. Many bowed before the coffin or made a sign of the cross. Several veterans, their medals shining, offered sharp salutes. Some people wept. Others blew kisses. Many hugged one another as they stepped away, proud to have spent hours in line to offer a tribute, even if it lasted only a few moments.

Book ban efforts surging in 2022, library association says

NEW YORK (AP)—The wave of attempted book banning and restrictions continues to intensify, the American Library Association reported Friday. Numbers for 2022 already approach last year's totals, which were the highest in decades.

"I've never seen anything like this," says Deborah Caldwell-Stone, director of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. "It's both the number of challenges and the kinds of challenges. It used to be a parent had learned about a given book and had an issue with it. Now we see campaigns where organizations are compiling lists of books, without neces-

sarily reading or even looking at them."

The ALA has documented 681 challenges to books through the first eight months of this year, involving 1,651 different titles. In all of 2021, the ALA listed 729 challenges, directed at 1,579 books. Because the ALA relies on media accounts and reports from libraries, the actual number of challenges is likely far higher, the library association believes.

Friday's announcement is timed to Banned Books Week, which begins Sunday and will be promoted around the country through table displays, posters, bookmarks and stickers and through readings, es-

say contests and other events highlighting contested works. According to a report issued in April, the most targeted books have included Maia Kobabe's graphic memoir about sexual identity, "Gender Queer," and Jonathan Evison's "Lawn Boy," a coming-of-age novel narrated by a young gay man.

"We're seeing that trend continue in 2022, the criticism of books with LGBTQ subject matter," Caldwell-Jones says, adding that books about racism such as Angie Thomas' novel "The Hate U Give" also are frequently challenged.

Banned Books Weeks is overseen by a coalition of writing and free speech orga-

nizations, including the National Coalition Against Censorship, the Authors Guild and PEN America.

Conservative attacks against schools and libraries have proliferated nationwide over the past two years, and librarians themselves have been harassed and even driven out of their jobs. A middle school librarian in Denham Springs, Louisiana, has filed a legal complaint against a Facebook page which labeled her a "criminal and a pedophile." Voters in a western Michigan community, Jamestown Township, backed drastic cuts in the local library over objections to "Gender Queer" and

other LGBTQ books.

Audrey Wilson-Youngblood, who in June quit her job as a library media specialist in the Keller Independent School District in Texas, laments what she calls the "erosion of the credibility and competency" in how her profession is viewed. At the Boundary County Library in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, library director Kimber Glidden resigned recently after months of harassment that included the shouting of Biblical passages referring to divine punishment. The campaign began with a single complaint about "Gender Queer," which the library didn't even stock, and escalated to the point where Glidden feared for her safety.

Expat gets the cold shoulder from French natives

DEAR ABBY: I went to college in France. It was my lifelong dream to move here and start my own life in this beautiful country. I succeeded. I married and had a child, but the marriage didn't work out. My son, who is now 8, has spent his whole life here. He fits in. He is popular. However, as a single working mother in a foreign land, I do not.

I have mastered the French language. I can have an intellectual conversation in French, and I even make jokes in French. I understand it's a different culture. I have had many different roles as a bilingual assistant in various sectors, such as real estate, digital transformation, architecture and interior design.

I count myself blessed to always be able to find work, but the women here just don't like me. I am blond and wear makeup, and my presence seems to threaten and anger them no matter where I go. There are always one or two nice colleagues, but there is also a mass vibe of hostility. I can't leave because I can't take my son away from his father. Advice?

LEFT OUT IN PARIS

DEAR LEFT OUT: Please allow me to offer my sympathy. What you are experiencing is hurtful. But it happens everywhere, not just in Paris.

You wrote that wherever you are working, there

are always one or two nice colleagues. Concentrate on them and the work you are assigned to do and, although it may not be easy, ignore the rudeness of the others. You are not there to socialize. Because you feel iced out socially, try to connect with other expatriates who are probably feeling the way you do. It's more productive than licking your wounds alone.

At some point, your son will be old enough to be on his own, and you may be able to relocate to a part of France (or Europe) where the people are warm and welcoming. Keep your contacts close back home, because you may be able to relocate to the States if you wish. In the meantime, stay occupied. If you do, it will give you less time to be depressed.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: When attending a wedding, do you think it's rude for the guests to post photos of the bride and groom on social media announcing the new couple before the couple have a chance to post? It would be like someone else announcing the birth of your baby. I think the couple should be the first to post any photos of themselves and announce their marriage. What do you think?

PROPER IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PROPER: I think you're correct. However, so many people post about the activities in which

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

they participate, it isn't surprising that guests would enthusiastically share their joy by putting these pictures online. If the bride and groom want to keep it from happening, they should specify that they want no photos taken during the wedding or the reception (and then cross their fingers). Guests who plan to take pictures should be sure to ask the couple before posting them.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



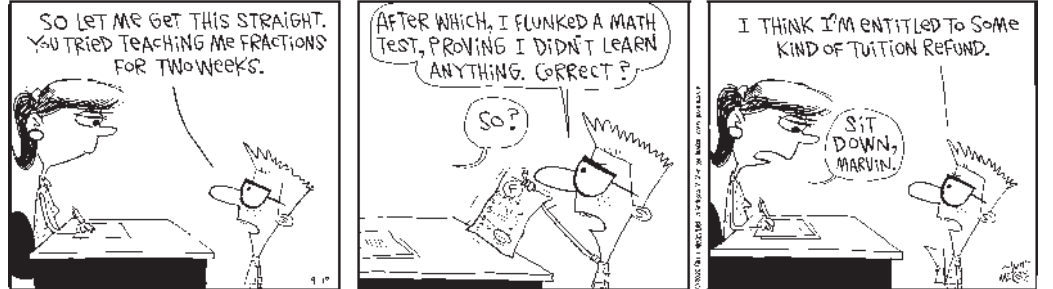
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cam-bridge sch.

4 Tizzies

9 NPR's Shapiro

12 "Rocks"

13 Old Testament book

14 Guitar master Paul

15 Puzzle solver's epiphany

17 "Tasty!"

18 Director DuVernay

19 Post-pones

21 Super-vised

24 Appear

25 Blackbird

26 Back talk

28 "Swell!"

31 Aliases

33 Corn core

35 "Go no further!"

36 Nerd

38 "Don't Start Now" singer Lipa

40 Tolkien creature

DOWN

41 First lady of scat

43 Distress signals

45 Band around a sleeve

47 Reunion gp.

48 Grazing tract

49 Black Sea region

54 New England cape

55 Yo-Yo Ma's instru-ment

56 Farm female

57 Dijon denial

58 Head lights?

59 "Evil Woman" gp.

DOWN

1 Actress Farrow

2 German pronoun

3 Chai, e.g.

4 Digging tool

5 Itinerant

6 British verb ending

7 Looks after

8 Lustrous fabric

9 Yale, to Jodie Foster

10 — Martin (cognac)

11 Doctrines

16 Irate

20 Cask sedi-ment

21 Round of applause

22 Sufficient, old-style

23 "Save Me" singer

27 Group of whales

29 Vocal quality

30 Makes a choice

32 Vend

34 Beast on a nickel

37 Laundry additive

39 Los —, New Mexico

42 Confused

44 "— Blue?"

45 Astronaut Shepard

46 Gambling city

50 Unwell

51 Formerly known as

52 Hogwarts messenger

53 Old Olds-mobile

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 09/19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Potter, 27; Emmy Rossum, 36; Jennifer Hudson, 41; Benjamin McKenzie, 44.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to detail, slow down and give yourself a chance to breathe, dream and plan your next move. Calculate your position, and map the journey that will take you where you want to go. Plan for what you want and what you see yourself doing as you move forward. Don't fear change; master the art of following through with your plans. Your numbers are 8, 19, 23, 26, 34, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Focus on how you earn and handle your cash. An open discussion with an expert will help you sort out the best path for you to follow. An open mind and energetic approach to doing things will give you an edge. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Change things up to match your schedule. Reach out to people you trust to get things done, and create a plan that allows you to use your skills to the best of your ability. Don't share secrets or send someone the wrong message. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put a solid plan together before you begin something new. An optimistic attitude will help convince others that you are an expert in your field. Speed and accuracy will make the difference between success and falling short. A confident attitude will pay off. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at every angle before making a move. Consider the cost and time involved before you start something you may not be able to fin-

ish. Observe how others react to suggestions and adjust how you proceed to counter any negative input you receive. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take the initiative, and carry on until you are happy with the results. Feeling passionate about what you do and your contribution will not go unnoticed. Stop second-guessing yourself; follow your heart. When in doubt, ask questions. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your vision will take you on a journey that is sure to please. Be receptive to the unfamiliar. Prepare to use what you discover to help you get ahead and justify taking a step in a new and exciting direction. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Talks will lead to action. Figure out the best way to proceed; the input you receive will motivate you to go the distance. A partnership will bring more benefits than liabilities. Work with someone who shares your destination. ★★★

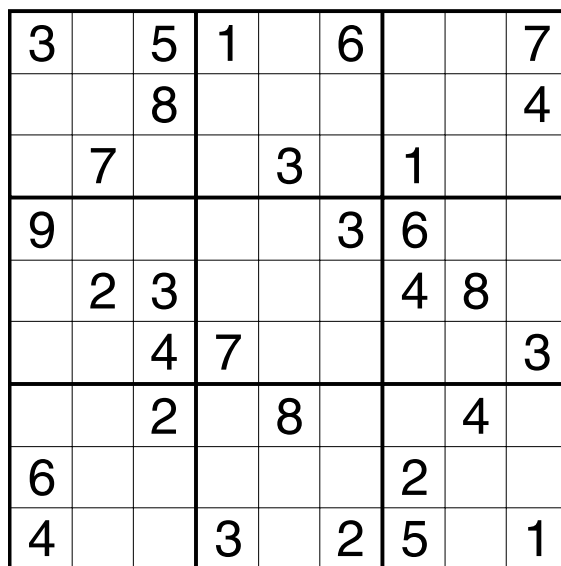
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't wait until it's too late. Sign up for whatever gets you one step closer to your goal. Change begins with you, and taking the path that feels comfortable will make your journey enjoyable. A change of heart will lead to commitment. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't trust what others lead you to believe. Take precautions when it comes to your job, reputation and health. Make plans with someone who offers good conversation and advice, and you'll feel relief regarding what you are trying to achieve. ★★★★★

SUDOKU

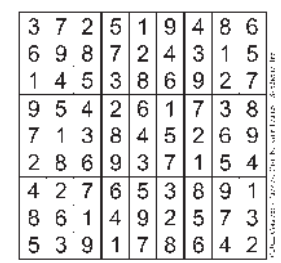
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

9/19

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't spend what you don't have. It's OK to dream, but sticking to a budget you can afford will help you maintain a healthy and stress-free lifestyle. Don't let mixed emotions or someone's prompting to purchase something get you into trouble. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Concentrate on something that matters to you. Using your skills uniquely, making something that others won't or changing how you use your space, time and money to get ahead will all pay off. Don't let the changes others enforce disrupt your plans. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Accept the help others offer, and create new opportunities. Taking a different approach to an old idea will bring it back to life and motivate you to follow through with your plans. Use your knowledge and expertise to sidestep setbacks. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are precise, anxious and sensitive. You are outspoken and diligent.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

I BROKE MY FOOT

Solution: 8 letters



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9/19

Accordion, Amber, Apron, Autumn, Beer, Bodice, Ceremony, Clink, Concerts, Culture, Dindis, Ferment, Folk, Food, Frothy, Germany, Jugs, Lager, Ludwig, Maiden, Malt, March, Marzen, Mugs, Munich, Music, October, Oide, Pretzel, Races, Radish, Rink, Royal, Sauerkraut, Sausage, September, Shindig, Sing, Stein, Swings, Tent, Theme, Tips, Tradition, Wedding, Wiesen

Last Friday's Answer: Salt and Pepper

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Federer says he is retiring from pro tennis at age 41

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP TENNIS WRITER

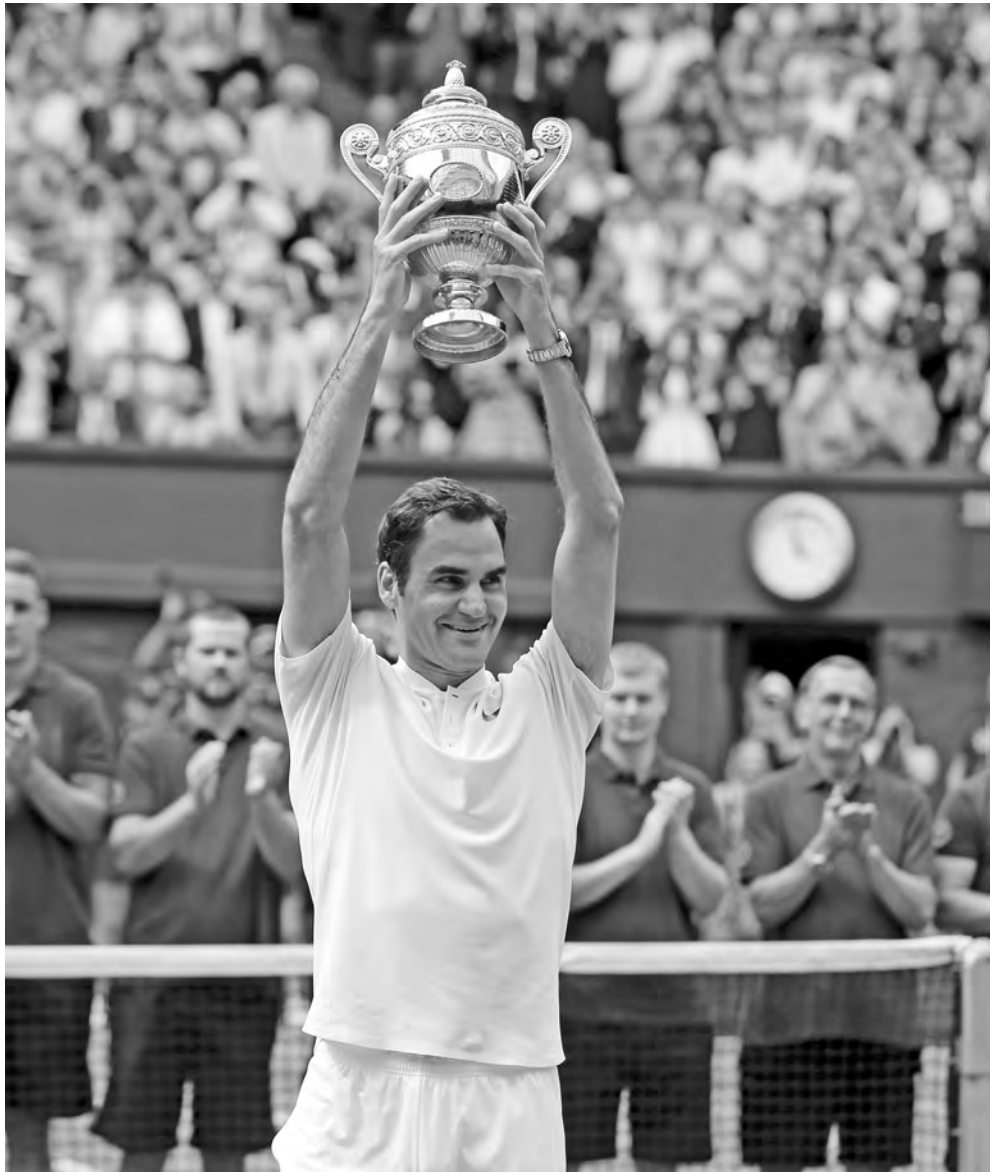
Roger Federer is retiring from professional tennis at age 41 after a series of knee operations, closing a career in which he won 20 Grand Slam titles, finished five seasons ranked No. 1 and helped create a golden era of men's tennis with rivals Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Federer posted what he called a "bittersweet decision" via both a written statement and an audio clip on Thursday, less than two weeks after 23-time major champion Serena Williams played what is expected to be the last match of her career.

Combined, the exits by two of the greatest athletes in their sport's history represent a significant turning of the page.

"As many of you know, the past three years have presented me with challenges in the form of injuries and surgeries. I've worked hard to return to full competitive form," said Federer, who is home in Switzerland. "But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear."

Federer has not competed anywhere since Wimbledon in July 2021, and so, in that sense, his news is not all



Switzerland's Roger Federer is applauded by ground staff as he holds the trophy after defeating Croatia's Marin Cilic to win the Men's Singles final match on day thirteen at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Sunday, July 16, 2017.

that surprising.

But he had appeared at an event marking the 100-year anniversary of Centre Court at the All England Club this July and said he hoped to return to play there "one more time."

He also had said he would return to tournament action in his home country at the Swiss Indoors in October.

In Thursday's announcement, Federer said his farewell event will be the Laver Cup in London next week. That is a team event run by his management company.

"I knew a few weeks ago that his rehabilitation with his knee wasn't going as well as he had hoped. A few weeks after Wimbledon, he informed me that the knee was not reacting as well as it should and that he was thinking about figuring out a way to end his career," Tony Godsick, Federer's agent since 2005, said in a telephone interview Thursday.

"I had suggested to him years ago that he should stop. Not many tennis players at his level push into their 40s. But he was always interested in challenging himself," Godsick said. "And at the end of the day, after 1,500-plus matches, the tires finally wore out. And he's got things to do in his next stage."

Federer and his wife, Mirka — a tennis player, too; they met as athletes at an Olympics — have two sets of twins, girls who are 13 and boys who are 8.

Federer leaves the sport with a total of 103 tour-level titles on his substantial resume and 1,251 wins in singles matches, both second only to Jimmy Connors in the Open era, which began in 1968. Federer's records include being the oldest No. 1 in ATP rankings history — he returned to the top spot at 36 in 2018 — and most consecutive weeks there (his total weeks mark was eclipsed by Djokovic).

The dominance Federer displayed at the height of his powers is unrivaled, including reaching 10 consecutive Grand Slam finals, winning eight, from 2005-07, a run that also extended to 18 of 19 major finals into 2010.

In a sport where changes in surface and other conditions can make even the best players thrilled with a showing here or there into the second week of a Slam, Federer compiled streaks of 36 quarterfinals in a row and 23 semifinals in a row from 2004 to 2013.

"Roger Federer is a champion's champion. He has the most complete game of his generation and captured the

hearts of sports fans around the world with an amazing quickness on the court and a powerful tennis mind," Hall of Famer Billie Jean King said. "He has had a historic career with memories that will live on and on."

When Federer won his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, the men's record for most major trophies was held by Pete Sampras, who had won his 14th at the U.S. Open the year before in what turned out to be the last match of the American's career.

Federer would go on to blow way past that, ending up with 20 by winning eight championships at Wimbledon, six at the Australian Open, five at the U.S. Open and one at the French Open. His 2009 trophy at Roland Garros allowed Federer to complete a career Grand Slam.

His serving, forehand, footwork and attacking style will all be remembered. Also unforgettable were his matches against younger rivals Nadal, 36, and Djokovic, 35, who both equalled, then surpassed, Federer's Slam total and are still winning titles at the sport's four biggest tournaments.

"I wish this day would have never come," Nadal said. "It's a sad day for me personally and for sports people around the world. I said it to you when we spoke and now it's here. It's been a pleasure but also an honor and privilege to share all these years with you, living so many amazing moments on and off the court."

Nadal now leads the men's major championship count with 22, one ahead of Djokovic.

"I was lucky enough to play so many epic matches that I will never forget," Federer said in Thursday's announcement.

Addressing his "competitors on the court" — although not by name — he wrote: "We pushed each other, and together we took tennis to new levels."

Federer's last match anywhere came on July 7, 2021, when he lost at Centre Court in the Wimbledon quarterfinals to Hubert Hurkacz 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-0.

Soon after, Federer had surgery to repair damage to his meniscus and cartilage in his right knee — his third operation on that knee in a span of 1 1/2 years.

"Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt," Federer said Thursday, "and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competitive career."

Chiefs rally past Chargers 27-24 in early AFC West showdown



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—In a showdown between the Chiefs and Chargers, two of the league's best teams led by two of the game's bright young quarterbacks, an unheralded seventh-round draft pick who a few years ago was working alongside his mother in a Wendy's restaurant stole the show.

The Chiefs' Jaylen Watson picked off Justin Herbert at the goal line early in the fourth quarter Thursday night, headed the other way and was never touched on a 99-yard go-ahead touchdown that propelled Kansas City to a 27-24 victory.

"I don't even remember what happened at that moment," Watson said later. "It's all so surreal."

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw for 235 yards with TD passes to Jerick McKinnon and Justin Watson, and fill-in kicker Matt Ammendola was perfect in place of injured Harrison Butker. But it was the Chiefs' defense, and Watson's highlight-reel interception, that allowed Kansas City (2-0) to overcome its early problems in an early divisional test.

"The thing that I'm most

proud of," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "is that we stuck together. Nobody pointed any fingers."

Two series after Watson's go-ahead touchdown, things got even worse for the Chargers (1-1) when Herbert was drilled by defensive end Mike Danna while delivering a throw. He left the field clutching his side, returned one play later, then threw an incompletion that forced the Chargers to punt while trailing 24-17.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire promptly split the defense on a 52-yard run to set up a field goal for Kansas City.

Herbert, who finished with 334 yards and three touchdown passes, gamely tried to keep the Chargers alive. He threw a 36-yard dart on fourth down to extend their ensuing possession, then hit Joshua Palmer in the back of the end zone on fourth-and-goal to pull Los Angeles within 27-24 with just over a minute to go.

Kansas City recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock to end the game.

"You're not going to see a quarterback in any level of football play tougher and do more for his team and will his team and give them a chance than him," Chargers coach Brandon Staley said of Her-

bert, who was getting X-rays and wasn't available after the game. "There's nobody who can do what he can do. Nobody. He showed a lot of guts. He showed what he shows us every day, that we're never out of the fight. He brought us back and gave us a chance."

The highly anticipated showdown between two of the league's most prolific quarterbacks, each surrounded by premier playmakers, turned out early on to be a defensive slugfest.

The Chargers held the Chiefs to 13 yards in the first quarter, thanks to relentless pressure from Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack and the fact that Derwin James Jr. was just about everywhere, and kept a team that scored 44 points last week in Arizona off the scoreboard until Mahomes slung a sidearm pass to McKinnon early in the second quarter.

The Chargers fared better offensively, even though Staley opted to play conservatively, twice punting on fourth-and-2 near midfield. Dustin Hopkins kicked an early field goal before Mike Williams, dominating smaller Chiefs defensive backs, put the Chargers in position for Zander Horvath to catch a

short TD pass.

Staley finally went for it on fourth down on the opening drive of the second half. And one play after Austin Ekeler picked it up, Williams made a one-handed grab around Chiefs cornerback L'Jarius Sneed to give the Chargers a 17-7 lead.

The game appeared to be getting away from the Chiefs when Mahomes was intercepted by Asante Samuel Jr. on their next possession. But replays showed Samuel didn't control the ball and the call was overturned, and Mahomes capitalized on his second chance by throwing a 41-yard strike to Justin Watson for a touchdown.

The Chiefs tied it 17-all on the first play of the fourth quarter when Ammendola, who was signed earlier this week, knocked through a chip shot on fourth down at the goal line.

That set up Jaylen Watson's pick-6 and the first lead Kansas City had all night.

"This is what it's going to be. We know we're playing in the toughest division," Chiefs safety Justin Reid said. "We know we're going to get everyone's best shot. We have to come out and we have to perform."

Dodgers rack up 10th 100-win season in franchise history



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Trayce Thompson hit a two-run homer to back Julio Urias' 17th win, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Francisco Giants 7-2 on Saturday night to notch their 10th 100-win season in franchise history and fourth in six years.

Justin Turner hit a pair of RBI singles among his three hits a day after reaching a career-best 35 doubles for the season.

Urias (17-7) struck out eight with one walk over six innings and improved to 4-1 against San Francisco this season. He allowed two runs on five hits.

Los Angeles pounded 13 more hits after getting nine in the series opener and needed the fewest games to reach 100 wins since the 2001 Seattle Mariners.

Thompson connected for his 11th homer against Sean Hjelle, then the Dodgers hit five straight singles off Hjelle (0-2) to start the third inning before Thompson walked.

Guardians 5, Twins 1, game 1 Guardians 7, Twins 6, 15 innings, game 2

In Cleveland, Austin Hedges scored on an error by shortstop Jermaine Palacios in the 15th inning and AL Central-leading Cleveland beat Minnesota for the eighth straight time in the second game of a doubleheader.

Amed Rosario, who went 8 for 13 with six RBIs in the twinbill, hit a sharp grounder that Palacios mishandled with two outs. The ball skidded into the outfield, allowing Hedges to score from third and end the 5-hour, 24-minute marathon.

Cleveland, which has won nine of its last 10, opened a 4 1/2-game lead over the Chicago White Sox and is seven games ahead of the third-place Twins.

The ninth Guardians pitcher, Kirk McCarty (5-2), worked three innings for the win. Dereck Rodríguez (0-1) tossed 3 2/3 innings after being recalled from Triple-A St. Paul between games.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 3

In Toronto, Raimel Tapia hit a three-run double, José Berrios pitched six innings to remain unbeaten against Baltimore, and Toronto strengthened its position atop the AL wild card standings with a win.

George Springer had two hits and two RBIs, and Matt Chapman drove in a run and scored a run as Toronto improved to 13-4 in September. The Blue Jays have won six of their last seven against Baltimore.

The Blue Jays lead the wild

card race ahead of Seattle and Tampa Bay. Baltimore is five games back of the Rays, who played later Saturday, for the last wild card.

Berrios (11-5) allowed two runs and seven hits to win his third straight decision. He is 8-0 with a 3.04 ERA in 11 starts against the Orioles. Jordan Romano finished for his 34th save in 38 chances.

Orioles right-hander Kyle Bradish (3-7) allowed five runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings, his second straight loss.

Rays 5, Rangers 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Taylor Walls homered and six Tampa Bay pitchers combined on a six-hitter to beat Texas.

Tampa Bay remained 1 1/2 games behind Toronto for the top AL wild card. The Rays hold a 5 1/2-game advantage over Baltimore, which is fourth in the race for the three wild cards.

Jonah Heim homered and Jon Gray (7-7) allowed two runs and two hits over 4 1/3 innings in his second start for Texas since returning from a left oblique strain.

Heim made it 2-1 with a fourth-inning leadoff homer against Ryan Yarbrough (2-8).

Angels 2, Mariners 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani pitched seven scoreless innings, drove in one run and scored another to help Los Angeles beat Seattle.

The Mariners entered the four-game series tied for the top spot in the AL wild-card chase but are now two games behind Toronto Blue Jays and a half game in back of Tampa Bay. Seattle holds the final wild-card spot, five games ahead of Baltimore.

Ohtani (13-8) reached base twice in three at-bats, drove in his 89th run and lowered his ERA to 2.43 in 148 total innings. He gave up three hits with one walk and eight strikeouts, and now has 196 strikeouts on the season.

Mets 5, Pirates 1

In New York, Eduardo Escobar hit an early three-run homer and Chris Bassitt pitched six shutout innings for his 14th win as New York topped Pittsburgh.

New York maintained its one-game lead in the NL East over the Atlanta Braves.

Pete Alonso drew a bases-loaded walk in the eighth for his 114th RBI, adding to his NL high. Mets batters were hit by pitches four times, including Jeff McNeil twice.

Bassitt (14-8) permitted three hits and struck out eight.

Rodolfo Castro's 10th homer of the season in the ninth prevented the Pirates



Los Angeles Dodgers' Trayce Thompson, left, celebrates with manager Dave Roberts after the Dodgers defeated the San Francisco Giants in a baseball game in San Francisco, Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022. ^{AP}

from being shut out for the 15th time.

Cardinals 5, Reds 1, game 1 Cardinals 1, Reds 0, game 2

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina hit a two-run drive while Albert Pujols went hitless in his quest for 700 homers, and St. Louis Cardinals swept a doubleheader against Cincinnati.

Pujols started at first base in the opener and hit second for the first time this season. He went 0 for 3 with two walks in his first two plate appearances. The sold-out crowd of 46,678 loudly booed both walks. He pinch hit and struck out in the second game.

Pujols hit career homer No. 698 during Friday night's 6-5 victory over Cincinnati.

St. Louis won the night game when Andrew Knizner scored on a throwing error by center fielder Nick Senzel, who was playing third base in a five-man infield.

Brewers 4, Yankees 1

In Milwaukee, Willy Adames hit a three-run shot for his 30th homer this season to back Brandon Woodruff as Milwaukee topped New York.

New York's Aaron Judge went 1 of 3 with a double and a walk to remain at 57 homers. Judge remained four homers from tying Roger Maris' American League record of 61.

The game included a bizarre moment in the third inning. Catcher Victor Caratini had just received a pitch and was attempting to get the ball back to Woodruff (11-4), but his throw instead struck the left-handed-hitting Marwin Gonzalez on the left side of his head. Gonzalez was examined

by a Yankees athletic trainer for a few minutes before getting removed from the game.

Athletics 8, Astros 5

In Houston, Seth Brown homered and drove in four runs and Cole Irvin overcame a rocky start to help Oakland beat Houston.

Tony Kemp had three hits and scored three runs as Oakland won for the fourth time in 15 games this month, and snapped Houston's six-game winning streak a day after the Astros clinched a postseason berth.

Brown crushed an 80mph slider off Astros starter José Urquidy in the fifth inning 432 feet to the right-field upper deck for a three-run homer to give the A's a 6-4 lead. In his next at-bat, he doubled off Will Smith in the seventh to extend the lead to 7-4.

Braves 4, Phillies 3

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuña Jr. homered and drove in four runs off Aaron Nola and flashed some fancy defense in right field, lifting Atlanta over Philadelphia.

The victory was dampened because Ozzie Albies broke his right pinky finger when sliding head-first into second base. He had just returned from an 81-game absence Friday because of a broken left foot.

Nola (9-12) made his 200th career start, giving up four runs and seven hits with eight strikeouts in seven innings. Braves closer Kenley Jansen faced the minimum in the ninth for his 34th save in 41 chances.

Dylan Lee (4-1) got the loss.

Padres 2, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Luis Campu-

sano hit his first homer of the season, Joe Musgrove won for the second time in three months and San Diego beat Arizona.

Campusano's solo shot capped a two-run fourth and Musgrove (10-7) gave up four hits in six innings before the bullpen took over.

San Diego moved within a half-game of Philadelphia for the second NL wild card and remained 1 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee for the third and final spot.

Nick Martinez tossed two perfect innings in relief and Josh Hader pitched around Jake McCarthy's one-out single in the ninth for his 33rd save in 36 chances.

Arizona right-hander Zac Gallen (12-3) was the hard-luck loser, giving up two runs and four hits in 5 1/3 innings. He had won his previous eight starts but took his first loss in 16 starts since June 10.

Royals 9, Red Sox 0

In Boston, Brady Singer pitched out of a bases-loaded, nobody out jam in the third and finished with six shutout innings to lead Kansas City over Boston.

Singer (9-4) won his fifth straight decision, allowing five singles and a walk while striking out five.

MJ Melendez and Vinnie Pasquantino had three hits apiece for the Royals; Melendez scored four runs and Pasquantino drove in three. The first four batters in the Kansas City lineup went 10 for 20 with eight RBIs.

Rich Hill (7-7) gave up four runs on eight hits and a balk, striking out four.

White Sox 4, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Yoan Moncada hit

a tiebreaking single in a two-run 11th inning to give Chicago a win over Detroit.

With the score 2-2, Elvis Andrus reached on a bunt single leading off the 11th. Gregory Soto (2-9) failed to pick up the bunt on the left side of the mound as automatic runner Selby Zavala advanced to third.

Moncada hit an RBI single, José Abreu struck out and, after a double steal, Eloy Jiménez's sacrifice fly gave Chicago a 4-2 lead.

Pinch-hitter Javier Báez had a two-out, running-scoring single in the bottom half against Aaron Bummer, who retired Spencer Torkelson on a flyout for his second second save.

Liam Hendriks (4-4) retired the side in order in the 10th, a day after giving up Victor Reyes' game-ending sacrifice fly in the 10th.

Nationals 5, Marlins 3

In Washington, Lane Thomas got things started with a lead-off homer for Washington, which ended up with four solo shots in a win over Miami.

The Nationals have the worst record in the majors and entered with an NL-low 122 homers — the AL's Detroit Tigers were at 91.

After Thomas hit his 16th of the season off Marlins starter Trevor Rogers, Luke Voit took Jeff Brigham (0-1) deep in the third for his 21st. Victor Robles then broke a 3-all tie by connecting off Brigham in the fourth for his fifth homer this year, and Alex Call's fourth homer came against Cole Sulser in the fifth.

Rogers faced seven batters and threw 32 pitches before leaving in the second with back muscle discomfort.

Hunter Harvey (2-1) pitched a 1-2-3 fifth and was credited with the win. Kyle Finnegan collected his 10th save in 14 chances.

Rockies 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Charlie Blackmon hit a tiebreaking triple and scored in a two-run ninth, and Colorado earned a rare road win by beating Chicago.

Blackmon drove in pinch runner Garrett Hampson with a triple to the right-field corner against Adbert Alzolay (0-1) after C.J. Cron walked with one out. He scored on a single by Elias Díaz, making it 3-1, and the Rockies came away with the win despite a dominant outing by Cubs rookie Hayden Wesneski in his first major league start.

The Rockies won for just the fifth time in their past 18 road games. Ureña allowed one run and seven hits. Daniel Bard came on in the ninth for his 31st save in 34 chances.

Lady Eagles soar above opposition in HS v-ball

By LEIGH GASES

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CORRESPONDENT

Both of Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles' volleyball teams racked up two more wins last Thursday in the continuation of the Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 at the MHS Gymnasium.

The top seeded varsity teams this season, GCA and the Mount Carmel School Lady Knights, went head-to-head in a match with the former coming out still undefeated in just two sets, 21-9, 21-19.

Prior to the varsity bout, the junior varsity Lady Eagles bested the Saipan

Southern High School junior varsity in two sets as well, 21-12, 21-13.

GCA varsity team head coach Cesar Liput was asked how the game went and he said, "well, the players are excited. They missed a lot of sets because of that excitement—they almost gave me a heart attack," he said jokingly.

"But I called a time out and they just mellowed and teamwork is still there, so I just want to give MCS the praise because they're getting better. It was a really good game. But I think during the pressure, the kids handled it properly," he said.

The GCA varsity team is



LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles' Hye Jin Elliot spikes the ball against a Mt. Carmel School blocker during their Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 game last Thursday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

the only undefeated team in the ongoing season, with three wins.

The GCA varsity team is composed of Hye Jin Elliott, Katriel Saures, Soleil Lamar, Vicky Wang, Allyssa Omampo, Cassie Regan, Eunice Pagaduan, and Azriel Fatialofa.

The GCA junior varsity team includes Hannah Tenorio, Nieves Villagomez, Cherries Camacho, Eunji Hahn, Kaydece Gilespe, Taehee Kim, Beatrice Fabre, Mariana Angeles, and Fiona Regan.

In other games that night, both Saipan International School teams won their games in their division, with SIS JV defeating Kagman High School in two sets, 21-5, 21-10 and SIS varsity defeating SSHS in two sets as well, 22-20, 21-11.

Lastly, Marianas High School varsity defeated KHS in three sets, 14-21, 21-9, 15-8.

In the varsity standings, GCA is on top with 3-0, MCS fell 2-1, MHS is at 2-1, SIS is at 2-0, KHS fell to 0-2, ACS is at 0-2, and SSHS is at the bottom with a 0-3 record.

The Public School System Girls High School Volleyball League 2022-2023 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

NMICS to host International Day of University Sports

By LEIGH GASES

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CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Mariana Islands College Sports will host the 3rd Annual International Day of University Sport tomorrow, Sept. 20, at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field from 4pm to 6pm.

NMICS, in association with The International University Sports Federation, Northern Marianas Sports Association, and Northern Marianas College, will be hosting its 3rd Annual Inter-

national Day of University Sports celebration alongside over 100 other countries.

"We encourage everyone to come out and join this event. Present in the event are Saipan Ultimate Frisbee, Northern Marianas Island Football Association, and the Northern Marianas College's very own Volleyball Club," NMICS told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

"Our IDUS celebration will highlight the importance of an active lifestyle for college students and the community," added NMICS.

Along with the sporting events, there will be a raffle and refreshments.

The annual celebration, which started in 2016, is the brainchild of FISU and endorsed by the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization to promote sports, health and wellness, and community engagement among college students and other stakeholders.

FISU Oceania has 12 member countries known as National University Sport Federations. Each federation differs in size, structure

and resources, which include the NMI, American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Guam, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa.

Meanwhile, for the whole month of September, along with the celebration on Sept. 20, FISU has started the "Let's Walk Oceania" walking challenge. The goal is to reach 12,550 miles overall among participants- the distance to walk to each sports federation in the region

of Oceania.

To register, install the Big Team Challenge App, scan the QR code found in the NMICS Facebook or Instagram Page, register and join Team Marianas.

Contact NMI's FISU program lead Denise Myers at denise.myers@marianas.edu or Angela Bernal at angela.bernal@my.marianas.edu for more information on the 3rd Annual International Day of University Sport or visit their Facebook page at Northern Mariana Islands College Sport or their Instagram page at nmi_collegesports.

MANCAO

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coming down, we had to slow down because of the terrain."

Chisato, a barista at Paris Croissant, topped the women's category with a time of 28:26.

Ann Bang came in second with a time of 28:44 and Jessica Ortizo clocked in third with a time of 30:51.

Chisato said she came out to support the club and the beach day cleanup. She said that it was her "first time"

running it and that she didn't know that there was "an uphill" run, so it was "hard, but I had practice because I usually run up Suicide Cliff."

After the race, Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said that "this is an amazing event that we partner every year with Salty Skin Pacific to promote Coastal Resources Management's International Coastal Cleanup."

With regards to the beach cleanup, he said "this is really special to me because we can do a beach cleanup any

day of the week but the reason why we come out once a year is to help collect data for all the scientific journalists and for CRM (Coastal Resources Management)... This is doing our part with the rest of the world to fight pollution in our marine aquatic life. At the same time, also, this is special because this is our first 5K in Kagman. We're going to do more 5Ks here in the future. So, thank you to all the organizers here in Kagman for bringing out Kagman's beauty and bringing some event

life down here."

He then thanked their sponsors, namely Latte Built, Salty Skin Pacific, MARPAC, and Java Joe's, "and thank you to the people of Kagman, you guys are all amazing today."

Right after the 5K, 29 adults and 11 children collected 113 lbs of trash from the shores of Tank Beach for the annual International Coastal Cleanup Day.

For more information on this event or other Run Saipan events, email run-saipan@gmail.com.

BENG

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ously but now it's like in my blood. What attracted me to the sport is you get to be with great people and make new friends," he said.

Palacios dedicated his successful 2022 season to his team, Trench Tech Racing Team, and his family.

"I want to thank my team and my sponsors Eleanor Cepeda and Melvin Cepeda and my coach Cuki Alvarez."

He's also looking forward to defending his Mini II Class championship in 2023.

"I intend to defend my championship next year by practicing and keeping pushing myself to do my best."

For the short term, Palacios is revving up for MRA's long-awaited matchup against Guam riders this coming November.

"I just need to practice more for the November race when Guam vs. Saipan finally comes together and races to see who's better so all the fans come down and watch us," he said.

Winners of the other classes of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

NMI

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kept to a limit so as to provide, as much as possible, a reasonable number of invitations for duties over the term," BWF Technical Official Commissioner chair Gilles Cavert said in a letter sent to Villaflor and NMBA president Merlie Tolentino.

Villaflor officiated matches in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, in-

cluding medal games. The NMSA general secretary was also in charge of forming a pool of local line judges for the Mini Games. She has attended various workshops under Badminton Oceania and Badminton World Federation and was co-league commissioner of the inaugural season of the Public School System Interscholastic Badminton League.

"Christy and Taurea are Pacific umpires with aspirations to further their qualifications. This opportunity will enable

them to attend and learn from the world's biggest events, where they will be on court with the top umpires and players. Their appointment is testament to the increased technical officials training programs in the Pacific Islands, where we hope to see more representatives gaining BWF status in the future," Badminton Oceania SG and chief executive officer Julie Carrel.

Villaflor and Tahiti's Taurea Mara are two of the five BWF Line Judges from Ocea-

nia certified to attend games world wide from 2023 to 2026. The three other ones are Ravi Nandan, Lok Yun Loi, and Karen Arnold, who are all from Australia and the group will join five other Oceania officials earlier included in the 2021-2024 cycle.

Villaflor is honored with the certification and is excited for the more opportunities and the experience that come with her involvement in high-level competitions across the globe. More importantly, Villaflor

is looking forward to sharing what she will learn from the BWF-sanctioned tournaments to fellow NMI line judges.

Meanwhile, Tolentino said that Villaflor's BWF certification and other opportunities presented to the NMBA through the assistance of Badminton Oceania have significant impact to the association's efforts in building local capacity not just in terms of developing players but also in creating a pool of technical officials.

"Line judges and umpires play a critical role in NMI badminton, especially now that we are strengthening our interscholastic program and trying to sustain momentum that we got from hosting the Pacific Mini Games to encourage more officials and players to try the sport. The NMBA is deeply grateful to Badminton Oceania and BWF for the support they are providing us to help grow badminton in the NMI," Tolentino said. (PR)



Federer says he is retiring from pro tennis at age 41

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20 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mancao, Chisato top ICC Day 5K



By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Michael Mancao and Rosemarie Chisato finished first in the men's and women's categories of Run Saipan's 2nd Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day 5K race.

Run Saipan held their annual ICC 5K race for the first time in Kagman with 23 runners and were blessed with beautiful weather as it wasn't hit with a heavy downpour early Saturday morning.

The course started off on the shores of Tank Beach in Kagman and ran through a portion of Kagman, then back to Tank Beach.

Mancao, a cadet for Airport Rescue and Firefighting, came in with a time of 22:34 to top the men's category.

Sildrey Veloria came in right after at 22:42 followed by Matt Furan at 26:18.

Mancao told *Saipan Tribune*, with a rainbow in the sky as a backdrop after the race, that the "course was really nice... it was beautiful weather too. The dogs were there but they weren't chasing us." He added that there were "two great hill workouts and the long pathway... was a really good, long stretch."

With the first-place finish, he said he stuck with Veloria "for [the] majority of the race and then to the turnaround, that's when we started picking up the pace, started pulling away from each other. And

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Michael Mancao, left, is all smiles as he comes in first place in the men's category, while women's first-placer Rosemarie Chisato runs on the shore of Tank Beach toward the finish line of Run Saipan's International Coastal Clean Up Day 5K last Saturday in Kagman.

'Beng' buttons up Mini II Class

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Vicente "Beng" Palacios was inspired to take up motocross

after seeing his cousin Michael Camacho race in 2020.

A couple of years later, the 13-year-old student from Dandan Middle School has fol-

lowed in Camacho's footsteps in winning Marianas Racing Association's Mini II Class



Point Series.

Aboard his trusty Honda crf150, Palacios smoked the competition with an overall points race total of 318 points. He was followed by vastly improved T.J. Ferrer with his 251 points, while Leighton Palacios completed the Top 3 in the division with 240 points.

"I was happy to win the Mini II class I and I kept on pushing myself to do my best and my family always motivate me to do what I can do and if you go down get back up and learn for that mistake that I made," said Vicente Palacios who was awarded the Mini II Class' No. 1 plate during the MRA 2022 awards banquet held last Sept. 10 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

He admits though that when he first started, he didn't really take motocross all that seriously.

"Back then it was just for fun and I didn't take it seri-

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MARK RABAGO

Mini II Class champion Vicente "Beng" Palacios shares the podium with runner-up T.J. Ferrer, left, and third place Leighton Palacios during Marianas Racing Association's 2022 Monster Energy Point Series awards banquet held last Sept. 10 at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

NMI badminton official gains world certification status

Northern Marianas Badminton Association's Christy Villaflor has been certified as Badminton World Federation line judge, becoming the first NMI badminton official to earn the distinction.

"BWF certificated line

judges were appointed taking into account technical official experience and certification, as well as to ensure worldwide balance and gender equity.

The total number of BWF Certificated Line Judges is

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Newly certified Badminton World Federation line judge Christy Villaflor, left, is seen here posing for a photo with local umpires Ericka Santiago and Arianne Antonio and Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Merlie Tolentino during a recognition ceremony for umpires and line judges at the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 held last June.